

# History of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

In 1954 Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar who was quite comfortable with her role in the academic world in Rome, when a mother asked her to give her son religious instruction. Sofia refused initially because she claimed she didn't know anything about teaching children. After much persistence on the mother's part, however, Sofia eventually agreed. She had no idea that her experience with this 7 year old boy would change her entire life; she gained insight into the



ways of the child. Her knowledge of child's development would grow as she collaborated with Gianna Montessori, an apprentice

of the spiritual development continue she collaborated with Gobbi, an of Maria

Montessori, to create what would eventually become known as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Gianna joined forces with Sofia by applying Montessori principles to Sofia's knowledge of Scripture. They would dedicate the rest of their lives to developing this method of religious formation of children through careful and constant observations of the children and prayerful reflection to come to a better understanding of the way children hear God speak to them. "Sofia and Gianna remind us constantly to look to the child for that sign of a deeply religious life - joy - and to always ask the question: "What face of God is the child telling us he or she needs to see?"

History of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The National Association of *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd United States*. Retrieved March 20th, 2013, from <https://www.cgsusa.org/>  
Gobbi, G.. (1998) *Listening to God with Children*. Loveland, OH: Treehaus Communications, Inc.



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1



**Policies & Schedule**



## Policies & Requirements

### Age:

Children must be between 3 and 5 years of age. Those coming into the program must have turned 3 by the first session. All children **MUST** be potty-trained before entering the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program.

### Fees:

Per Child \$135

\*All registration is done through our parish website.

All children **MUST** be registered in Faith Formation to attend CGS sessions.

### Location:

The atrium will be located in Classroom B2. This room will be reserved for Atrium use only. This is to help keep the sacredness to the room for the children, so that they know when we are in the atrium they behave differently than when they are in any of the other classrooms.

### Attendance:

Children are highly encouraged to attend each session to keep on track with the presentations and materials, as the presentations coincide with the Liturgical year and events/changes/celebrations that occur in the Liturgical life of the Church. There will be opportunities for children to make up presentations they have missed and be introduced to the materials for that session at later dates that are already scheduled into

the cycle of sessions.

### Arrival/Dismissal:

Parents will drop their children off a few minutes before the scheduled time of the session in classroom B1 with the Catechist and the assistant, where the children will

prepare themselves to enter the atrium. After each session children should be picked up in the same room they were dropped off in. No child will leave B31 without a parent/adult designee meeting them at the door.



### Session Time Breakdown:

Sessions will gradually build up each week to the 1.5 hour session to allow the children to adjust to being in the Atrium for the full time. The first and second weeks will consist of 45min sessions. The third and fourth weeks will consist of 1 hour sessions. The fifth week on through the rest of the year will consist of the full 1.5 hour.

### Mass Attendance:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is intended to help bring children into a fuller participation of the Mass. This means that children will be introduced to materials in the atrium that

closely resemble those used during the Mass, celebrations, and events that occur in the Liturgical year. As a result, they will understand more and participate with a fuller knowledge while at Mass. Mass attendance is very important. In Mass these little ones have the opportunity to see the connections between the works they do in the atrium and that which they encounter at Mass, thus leading them into full participation in Mass.

### Restroom Usage:

Due to the fact that there are no restroom facilities in Bldg B or C, we ask that you please make sure that your child uses the restrooms before sessions start to help limit the number of restroom visits during sessions. If a child needs to use the restroom at any time during the 1.5 hour sessions, the assistant will be available to escort the child to the restroom in the parish hall.

### Observations:

Anyone is welcome to come observe in the atrium anytime after the completion of the 2nd month of sessions. This allows time for the child to become accustomed to the ways of the Atrium and comfortable with his or her surroundings.

