How do I register for the Level I Course?

* Fill out the form below and return with your check payable to RC Bishop of Springfield (space limited, register early)
* Send to Office of Faith Formation: Attention Celeste Labbe

Parish or School

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Parish or School Town

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Mailing Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Day Phone Cell Phone

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Email Address

Questions?

Contact: Celeste Labbe - Director of Faith Formation

Diocese of Springfield

65 Elliot Street

Springfield, MA 01102-1730

(413) 452-0841 [c.labbe@diospringfield.org](mailto:c.labbe@diospringfield.org)

The Office of Faith Formation

Diocese of Springfield

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level I

Formation Course

**What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?**

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a hands-on approach to faith formation based on the Montessori method of learning. It utilizes a prepared space for children called the “atrium” and extensively trained

Catechists. The atrium is filled with child-sized furnishings and manipulative models representing people, places, and objects found in scripture and liturgy. Everything in the atrium is made to feed the deep religious potential of children.

Training in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd prepares adults to work in the atrium with children. Adults often find the courses to be useful to their own spiritual life as well. This is a Level I course in preparation for working with 3-6 year-old children. Level I is foundational to training and working in the Level II and Level III atrium. Completion of a Level I course is a pre-requisite for participation in a Level II or Level III course.

This course is structured to prepare catechists to begin work in a Level I atrium as soon as fall 2024, and will meet the following objectives:

* Present the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
* Explore the general developmental characteristics, religious nature, and the religious needs of the 3-6 year old child.
* Meditate on Biblical and liturgical themes and presentations presented to the 3-6 year old child.
* Offer guidelines and assistance in creating a 3-6 atrium, preparing the catechist’s album, and materials making.
* Broaden one’s ability to observe and learn from children, to listen with children to Scripture, and to deepen one’s enjoyment of God’s presence.

For more information you can visit the National Association Website:

[www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org)

**Where is training offered?**

St. Elizabeth Parish Center

201 Hubbard St. Ludlow, MA 01056

(Located between the church and school)

Entrance is right off of the parking lot.

**When will the Level I training be held?**

Training will be held 9:00AM – 4:00PM on the following days:

* June 3-7; Saturday 9/7; Saturday 10/19 (held in Agawam)
* Remainder of dates to be determined by the group – will be one Saturday a month

**Who are the Formation Leaders?**

Sarah Christopher is coordinator of CGS at St. Patrick –St. Anthony Church in Hartford. She works with children ages 3-12 in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atriums and at Enfield Montessori School. Sarah is recognized by the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as a Formation Leader for level I. Deborah Pelletier will be assisting Sarah. She is the CRE at St. Patrick-St. Anthony and is recognized by the National Association of CGS as a Formation Leader in all three levels.

**What is the cost?**

For within the Diocese of Springfield:

* $400 for the course (includes registration with the US Association of CGS)

Total: $400 per person

For outside the Diocese of Springfield

* $550 for the course (includes registration with the US Association of CGS)

Total: $550 per person