



St. Gregory Barbarigo
CGS & Capital Campaign FAQs



2025 Annual Stewardship Renewal
2024 - 2027 Capital Campaign

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

Q: What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)?

A: CGS is a Montessori method of religious education that aids your child in forming a relationship with God and His Church. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was created by a Catholic theologian and Catholic Montessori educator, but is open to all Christians of various denominations.

Q: What is the Atrium?

A: CGS takes place in the Atrium, which is the designated room for the class. It is a devoted space, prepared with materials that the children use to aid in their meditation of God and the rich truths of our Faith. The space is filled with items that are representative of Scripture and the Liturgy. The materials in the Atrium are size and age appropriate and can include three-dimensional, wooden representations of Bible stories, maps of Israel, and miniature models representing historical events and parables.

Q: What is a Catechist?

A: The Catechist is the guide or presenter of scripture or part of liturgy to children in the Atrium.

Q: What do the students do in the Atrium?

A: The Catechist will do a short presentation about scripture or the liturgy that coordinates with our Church's liturgical season. Then the children are given time to ponder and respond to God's message through their "work" which can include use of Atrium materials, art, or silent prayer. The child's "work" is to foster meditation, contemplation, and prayer so that the Holy Spirit may speak individually to the child.

Q: What are the levels of CGS?

Level 1 - ages 3-6

Level 2 - ages 7-9

Level 3 - ages 10-12

Each level has a dedicated Atrium with age and size appropriate materials. Due to the age specificity and volume of materials, each level needs a dedicated Atrium.

Q: How often do the children attend CGS in the Atrium?

A: Classes occur weekly during school for St. Gregory's students for preschool through 5th grade (2025 will include 6th grade). It is also available on Sunday mornings between Masses as part of our religious education from 9:15 - 10:45 AM for pre-k through 5th grade (2025 will include 6th grade).

Q: What levels of CGS do we offer at St. Gregory Barbarigo?

A: Our parish offers all three Levels of CGS. We have Catechists trained for all levels, but we always need more!

Q: Where are the Atria located?

A: We have one Level 1 Atrium in the school, and another Level 1 and 2 Atrium located in the parish office. Our Level 3 Atrium is currently shared with level 2 located in the old parish rectory.

Q: Why is CGS important to our parish and school?

A: The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is integral in making St. Gregory Barbarigo a parish of well-formed Christians. CGS aids our children in developing life-long, personal relationships with God which will continue to deepen as they move through adolescence and into adult life. In short, it is the best way we have found to pass on the Faith to our children.

Q: What do we need as a parish to continue to grow CGS?

A: Currently, we need volunteers to help assist in the Atria and to be trained as Catechists for the future. We also encourage parishioners to pray for this ministry and its continued success. Our long term goals include building dedicated CGS spaces in our parish and school.

Q: How can I become a Catechist?

A: To become a CGS Catechist, you will need to complete a training course led by a certified CGS formation leader. The training courses are designed to be "retreat-like" allowing you to deepen your relationship with God and His Church. The style and structure of the training varies so there are options to find a fit that's right for you. All Catechists begin with Level 1 formation and build from there. Contact the Parish Office (660-582-3833) or visit <https://www.cgsusa.org> to find course options in our area.

Q: How can I learn more about CGS?

A: The best way to learn about this amazing program is to visit our parish Atria! Information can also be found at the United States Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd website at <https://www.cgsusa.org>. To schedule a visit, volunteer to become an assistant, or inquire about becoming a Catechist, please contact the Parish Office at 660-582-3833.

Q: Why are atria different sizes as the children age?

A: The sizes of the atria vary due to two factors. As children age, their bodies take up more space. Ten three-five year olds would require less space than older children. In addition, as the children grow, so do their works in the atrium. They need space to spread out timelines and multifaceted works.

Q: If there are 3 levels of CGS, why do we need 4 spaces - wouldn't 3 be enough?

A: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the primary religion curriculum for children attending St. Gregory Barbarigo school. Please keep in mind that the ideal capacity for an atrium is 10 children in order to adequately provide presentations to groups in a timely manner and to assist children when needed. If a teacher and a Catechist hold sessions simultaneously, then the sessions can be accomplished in 90 minutes instead of 180 minutes. In addition, the number of parish children who attend CGS on Sundays is growing beyond the ideal capacity. The additional atrium would provide space for the children in a level needing additional space.

Q: Why can't CGS space be multi-purpose?

A: It is important to note that materials in the atria were hand-made by Catechists and parishioners. The CGS way is to have materials made from wood, paper, metal, and glass. The children attending the atria are reminded to take care of all of the materials as they are not easily replaced. Currently, our level 3 atrium is also used for bridal preparations and all works are covered with bed sheets in the hopes that items are not taken or broken. An atrium is a special prayerful place for the children. So yes, the space could be shared, granted that supervision is always provided and the CGS materials are respected and not used outside of CGS time.

Q: Have Crying Rooms gone by the wayside?

A: A Crying Room was not suggested. I think we can use the Gathering Space for that purpose. However, I would be interested to explore that if there was a strong parishioner feeling for it.

Q: Are you building out on the other side of the kitchen?

A: No, the footprint would not change, we will be building within the current footprint.

Q: So this phase 1 (Church expansion), was that originally phase 2? Were we originally focused on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and now we have switched that?

A: Actually, it is our plan, and expectation, that we will do phase 1 and 2 at the same time. I was advised by senior members that we should not put the school ahead of the church so I am comfortable doing both at the same time and I believe we can do that.

Capital Campaign

Q: What is ADA?

A: Americans with Disabilities Act which oversees the provision for handicap access in and around buildings.

Q: Where is the gym from the Connector building?

A: The gymnasium is to the right (north) as you look at the option 2 rendering.

Q: Outlook for additional space and maintenance? Is there a plan for additional campaigns?

A: The big unknown is Missouri Scholars.

Q: How much space will be available on the lower level of phase 2?

A: 3,600 sq. ft.

Q: If we ONLY choose to move forward with phase 1 and 2, would the rest of the phases be finished down the road?

A: The answer to this would all depend on the funding available.

Q: How much does the overhang / church portion of the construction cost by itself?

A: \$ 2.1M

Q: Why not build to the east where the gymnasium is, or even on the soccer field?

A: Building in the selected areas keeps the school together, plus the amount of dirt work required for such a project would increase the cost exponentially.

Q: How long would it take to construct these phases?

A: The church has been provided an eighteen (18) month estimate for the completion of construction.

Q: How many classrooms do you get out of the North Building?

A: The North Building addition provides 4 CGS classrooms on the upper level, plus 4-5 additional classroom-sized spaces on the lower level that can be configured as needed.

Q: Is the top floor of the North Building for school administration or church administration?

A: The top floor is for school administration, including moving the principal's office and improving the security and accessibility of the school entrance.

Q: During construction, where will the offices and atrium spaces be located that are being demolished in the connector building?

A: Temporary spaces like mobile classrooms or double-wides will likely be needed to house those functions during construction.

Q: Why is the connector building Phase 4 and not earlier in the plan?

A: The connector building is more expensive, so the plan is to start with the North Building addition that can provide immediate relief for the CGS program. Doing the connector later allows time to fundraise more for that larger project.

Q: What is the projected timeline for completing all four phases of the master plan?

A: There was no specific timeline provided, but the architect estimated about 18 months per phase, with the connector building potentially taking a bit longer due to the demolition and reconfiguration work.

Q: If we have the funds to do the first three phases, would we get a loan from the diocese to cover the gap before the pledges come in?

A: Yes, the diocese has indicated they would provide a line of credit to cover the gap between available funds and the full project cost, to be paid back as pledges are fulfilled.

Q: The floor plan for the Phase 4 building connector is flipped, showing the entry on the other end of the building.

A: Yes, the phase 4 floor plan drawing and the 3D rendering image show the entry in different locations. The architects provided a couple layout options for us to evaluate. As the design progresses we will refine the details and settle on the specific space arrangements.

Q: If you state that space for CGS is your priority, why is Church Expansion Phase 1 and the School Building phase 2?

A: Actually, it is our plan, and expectation, that we will do phase 1 and 2 at the same time.