

CATECHISTS

ROLE, QUALIFICATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES, TRAINING & SUPPORT, REQUIREMENTS AND TIME COMMITMENT

A catechist is someone who lets the Word of God echo or resound through his or her life. Catechists do more than simply “teach” religion; they share their faith and help young people learn how to apply and live their faith in their daily lives.

CLASSES ARE SCHEDULED

- From the end of September – April
- Sunday Sessions: Grades K-8 meet from 10:15-11:45 on alternate Sunday's (not necessarily every other week due to holidays)
- Tuesday Session: Grades 1-6 meet weekly from 4-5pm.
Child care is provided on Tuesday for catechist's children 4-6 years old and not in grade one
- Catechist choose the Session and grade they would like to teach

QUALIFICATIONS

- Adults or Confirmed teens who live their faith and are willing to share it with children
- Enjoy working with children a must
- A good sense of humor is a plus
- The time to prepare and lead a group of 12-18 children
- Willingness to learn and be open to new ideas

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for your assigned class and students
- Plan 13 lessons according to schedule outline
- Teach 13 classes
- Communicate with Director
- Communicate with parents of students via email and notes

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Training sessions and workshops are applied toward Catechist Certification

- Catechists who are new to our program are required to attend one Catechist Training Session consisting of three classes (held at the parish) offered evenings in August and in September
- Catechist Enrichment Day: Sunday, September 12th:
Blessing & Communion at 9am Mass
Staff Meeting/Lunch & Workshops
- Mentoring by seasoned Catechists (practical grade level meeting)
- Provided with a leaders guide, parish grade level resource handbook and supplies
- Optional workshops are provided throughout the year
- Resources for Catechists and children

REQUIREMENTS

Anyone over 18 who works or volunteers with children is required by the diocese to:

- *Register online for a State & Federal Background check and make an appointment and be fingerprinted. Once we receive your clearance letter, you can enter the class room.
- If we do not get your Clearance Letter in time, you will be required to do a temporary Quick Point background check (24hr. return) so that you can begin
- *Register online and attend one Virtus: Protecting God's Children Awareness Session
- *Read, sign and abide by the Diocesan Code of Conduct, Living With Integrity
- Read and abide by Parish Policies and Procedures

***Forms and links are available on our website "click on" Forms and Links**

TIME COMMITMENT

- Preparation – Time spent on preparation is time well spent. It makes for a successful class with little or no time for discipline problems. The catechist guide has a complete lesson outline to follow. It takes approximately 30 – 45 minutes to review and prepare for a lesson. A teaching schedule and outline is provided so that there is grade level consistency. We have a verity of resources: videos/DVD's, books, prayer services, games and work sheets, service projects and craft ideas to enhance your lessons.
- Co-Catechists are two catechists who share the responsibility for lesson planning and teaching a class. They can decide to take turns planning and teaching lessons so you will only be required to plan and teach 6 lessons or they can plan and teach together. Both must be present for class.
- Catechist need to arrive at least 15 minutes before classes begin and it takes about 15 minutes to clean up and put supplies away. Catechist teaching on Sunday 2 hours, Tuesday 1 ½ hours.
- If you volunteer to be a catechist, we ask for a one-year commitment. Substitute Catechists are available if you are ill or need an occasional day off.
- Attendance at meetings is encouraged but not mandatory