

Will You Help Us Share Our Faith?

Our faith is learned from others - passed down from generation to generation. As a **Parish Community**, we are responsible for supporting and helping parents with their child's religious education. As **parents**, the primary responsibility for the Faith Formation of our children is ours. To help us with this responsibility, we have the religious education programs offered to us by our parish.

We have a wonderful program designed to help children learn about their faith, prepare them for the sacraments that are an integral part of our faith and begin to live the sacramental life of the Church. The real essence, the backbone, and the lifeblood of this religious education program are the catechists.

WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR? We ask for a commitment to teaching one class per week (Sunday, for 35 weeks) and the weekly preparation time (approximately 1-2 hours per week). We also ask that all catechists attend the catechist workshops for in-service training. Both the parish and the dioceses sponsor a variety of continuing learning opportunities.

We know that it takes a lot of work to coordinate these activities into very busy

lifestyles.

Last year, we had over **120 people** make the commitment. This year, we need to have MORE!

HOW DO WE HELP OUR CATECHISTS? Our curriculum and catechist's manuals are user friendly. They provide a step-by-step process to help with lesson planning as well as suggestions for additional supporting activities. Each year, we have catechist workshops for our volunteers. These workshops are held on site.

The Diocese also provides the Ann & Monroe Carell Conferences, which are open not only to the catechists, but to all involved in religious education of our children in the Diocese. These workshops bring in nationally known speakers who cover a wide variety of topics.

In cooperation with Aquinas College, the Diocese of Nashville has begun Catechetical Formation classes designed to equip catechists with the skills needed to transmit the authentic faith of the Church. Sessions are offered throughout the Diocese so that it is easy for anyone who is interested in participating to attend.

WE NEED CATECHISTS IN ALL GRADE LEVELS! We have over 850 students enrolled in our program from

the age of three through the 12th grade. Our goal is to have two catechists per classroom and a class size no larger than 20 students for preschool through Grade 8.

SCHEDULE:

Please note: Catechists who teach during Mass attend Mass during one of the two other weekend Masses. Serving as a catechist does not fulfill your Sunday obligation to attend Mass.

During 8:30 Mass and 11:00 Mass: Three-year olds through Kindergarten age students.

From 9:45 to 10:45 AM (between the Masses): Students in grades 1-8

After 11:00 Mass: All high school students, grades 9 through 12.

If you would like more information, call Kim Leisinger or Judy Linneman at 794-8588. If you are interested in being a catechist, please complete the form on the reverse side and return it in the collection or mail it to the Parish Office.

Please note: All volunteers are required to complete a volunteer application form, a profile form, provide authorization for a background check and complete Safe Environment Training, either in person or through the diocesan website.

This is a great way to learn and grow in your faith, while sharing our faith with others!



CCD begins September 13!

(OVER)

I would like to help with the Religious Education Ministry!

Please print.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City, Zip Code: _____

Student volunteers must note their age and grade level as of September 1, 2009: _____

I am interested in teaching Religious Education this year. Please consider me for the following grades (indicate order of choice, i.e. 1,2,3, etc.). Please note, high school students are invited to be considered for catechist positions. They should be currently, actively participating in a Religious Education program.

During the 8:30AM Mass

During the 11:00AM Mass

_____ I would be interested in the rotating teacher opportunity.

_____ Preschool (3 year olds)

_____ Preschool (3 year olds)

_____ Pre-kindergarten (4 year olds)

_____ Pre-kindergarten (4 year olds)

_____ Kindergarten (5 year olds)

_____ Kindergarten (5 year olds)

(See box on below for more information about this option.)

The grade levels below do not use the rotating teacher option. Our first through eighth grade students meet between Masses, from 9:45 to 10:45AM. Our High School students meet after the 11:00AM Mass, have lunch and meet until 1:30PM.

1st grade

4th grade

7th grade

2nd grade (First Penance and First Communion)

5th grade

8th grade (Confirmation)

3rd grade

6th grade

High School

I cannot help by being a catechist, but I can help with:

— **Substitute Teaching:** (Circle all that apply) Between the Masses During 8:30AM Mass During 11:00AM Mass

Grades: _____

— **General:** Help in the office during the program year. Days that work best for me are _____. I am available in the (circle one or both) MORNING or AFTERNOON. We will contact you when help is needed.

— **Food Preparation:** Come in to help with food preparation for the high school program and/or special events such as workshops, retreats, etc.

Option for Three-year olds through Kindergarten age students (These classes take place during 8:30 Mass and 11:00 Mass): For this group only, we have a “rotating catechist team” option. This team has a minimum of four participants. This is how it works: Catechist “A” teaches as a lead catechist on the first Sunday, with Catechist “B” as the assistant. The following Sunday, Catechist “B” moves into the lead position, and Catechist “C” comes in as the assistant. This continues through the whole team. This provides continuity for the lesson from week to week. For the catechist, it translates into two Sundays “on” and two Sundays “off”. This is a popular choice with parents of young (pre-school and younger) children. If you are interested in this option, let us know!

Example:

Week	Lead	Assistant
1	A	B
2	B	C
3	C	D
4	D	A

(OVER)