

Religious Education: Catechist

Description of your role

A catechist assists parents in introducing and explaining basic concepts of our Catholic faith. The catechist works directly with children assigned to their classroom. The catechist understands their role as one to support parents in instructing their children in the formation of their faith. The text book description of a catechist is 'one who echoes the good news of the gospel'.

What qualifications are required to become a Catechist?

The most fundamental requirement of a catechist is that the person is an active, practicing Catholic striving to live a life consistent with church teachings. A catechist has a willingness and ability to share their belief in the gospel values with younger children.

Using materials provided by the parish, the catechist will faithfully lead classroom sessions in the presentation of age-specific concepts of our Catholic faith.

The catechist will possess a warm heart and be willing to patiently work with children in answering questions.

I'm not sure if I know enough about my faith to teach children

The parish staff person will assist you in understanding the concepts that are taught in each grade level. We offer catechist training sessions that assist new catechists in understanding basic teaching concepts. The text books and teacher guides are very clear and understandable. If you are a practicing Catholic, with a willingness to share your faith with younger children, there is a high likelihood that you will be qualified to teach or assist in one of our classrooms. Most of our catechists are parents that enjoy working with children and other adults on the Religious Education team.

What can I expect in my role as catechist?

1. Catechists find satisfaction in presenting the textbook materials to their students.
2. Catechists develop relationships of trust with their students. There can be great satisfaction in observing students who expand their understanding of God.
3. Catechists report an increase in their own understanding of our faith.
4. Catechists develop a working relationship with other catechists and support staff. It is common that catechists share ideas and materials.
5. Catechists find that teaching and organizing classroom activities is fun.

What kind of support can I expect?

1. The parish provides a dedicated staff member to assist catechists in their teaching role.
2. The parish supplies text books and teacher guides that outline the concepts that the catechist uses in instructing the students.
3. The parish provides an environment conducive to teaching and learning.
4. The catechist has access to multi media resources, and support personnel that can assist in offering suggestions specific to classroom topics.
5. We offer catechist training sessions to assist catechists in understanding basic teaching concepts.

What if I have other questions to ask about becoming a Catechist?

Please contact Resurrection parish staff member Joe Hancock at 563-556-7511.
Or by email: DBQ058RE@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us