

# CATECHIST

## WHAT IS A CATECHIST?

The catechist is a person of faith who leads others in understanding the faith teachings according to the official teachings of the Church, the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The role of a parish catechist is a vital ministry to the Church. It is a gift that has tremendous value to the world community at large because through the catechist's word and action, the message of Christ continues to have a place in all human affairs.

## WHAT DOES A CATECHIST DO?

The primary goal of a catechist is to model God's love to others. As a result, the primary requisite of a catechist is a love for God and a love for children. A catechist develops a lesson plan and uses that plan to teach in the classroom. By creating the lesson plan, the catechist ultimately designs and structures experiences for students that help them in growing in their personal faith and spirituality. The catechist passes on to students a set of shared meanings and values that are Catholic and Christian. A catechist also initiates others into the faith community, into its life, its worship, symbols and practices.

## WILL I RECEIVE TRAINING AND SUPPORT?

St. John the Baptist offers training classes giving the catechist the opportunity to reinvigorate their understanding of the faith. Formal training classes are held each fall. Catechists will learn more about Scripture, Church Doctrine, Lesson Planning, Classroom Activities and a variety of other subjects. All catechists will take part in the VOCARE certification training outlined by our Archdiocese. Catechists are also encouraged to attend the Diocesan Congress held each fall. It is the goal & requirement of our Education Program for catechists to obtain Archdiocesan certification.

On-going support is provided by the Coordinator of Religious Education. For a new catechist to feel comfortable and secure in the classroom, it is strongly recommended that they have at least 12 hours of instruction before classes begin.

## ARE THERE TEACHING & RESOURCE MATERIALS?

St. John the Baptist provides grade level teacher manuals. There are many items available through our parish and Archdiocese that will help a catechist along the way.

## WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

St. John the Baptist Religious Education Program begins in September and ends in May and meets once a week. Class hours are from 7pm to 8pm each Wednesday. Catechists are asked to be in their room no later than 6:35 in order to prepare for session.

## INTERESTED?

If you are interested in becoming a catechist or participating in the Religious Education Program, please call Chris Wibbenmeyer, Coordinator of Religious Education at (419) 925-4775.