



SAINT MICHAEL

Catechist Handbook

2020-2021

Purpose

The goal of each catechist is to make disciples, to help people believe that Jesus is the Son of God, so that believing they might have life in His name, and to educate and instruct in this life and thus build up the Body of Christ. To be a catechist is more than just simply reciting a textbook. Rather, it is a lifestyle of discipleship to Jesus. As St. John Paul the Great explained, The definitive aim of catechesis is not only to put people in touch, but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ. This task is a great responsibility and privilege for the laity. It is an honor to answer the call to this apostolate and so continue to hand on the Deposit of Faith that Jesus left us two thousand years ago.

Expectations

“Some people God has designated in the Church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, **teachers**”

- 1 Corinthians 12:28

God has given the gift of teaching to build up the Body of Christ. To answer this great call, there are expectations to be lived in order to continue to build the Kingdom of God. We do this because our students deserve excellence in our programming and to glorify God in all that we do. The expectations to be a catechist at St. Michael's Parish are as follows:

- Catechists must be actively practicing their faith. Minimum requirements include: Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation, confession once a year, giving financial means to the Church, reception of the Eucharist at least once a year during Lent, and observing fasting and abstinence on days established by the Church
- Catechists must be in full alignment with the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church
- Catechists must complete all Safe Environment and Diocesan standards before the first day of class.
- Catechists must be examples of catechesis by attending training sessions and meetings throughout the year and being a team player on your respective catechist team.

- Catechists must arrive 15 minutes early to class, organized, and ready to teach. All absences and tardies must be communicated to the Director of Catechesis in a timely manner.
- Catechists must prayerfully prepare for class and comprise a lesson plan in alignment with the content of each specific week to be given to the Director of Catechesis, either printed or through email, one week prior to class.
- Catechists must maintain an atmosphere of true, authentic love to all they come in contact with, namely students and parents of the Faith Formation program.
- Catechists must hold all parishioner information as confidential.

The FF program is volunteer-based and is dependent on volunteers keeping commitments. Should you sign up to volunteer and consistently arrive late, leave early, do not honor your commitments, or teach anything contrary to the Catholic Church Teachings, you will be asked to step down and may not be considered as a catechist in the future.

Grades Available

Kindergarten

1st

2nd (First Communion)

3rd

4th

5th/6th

7th/8th (Confirmation)