

November 13, 2019

ST. MARY & ST. PHILIP CATECHISTS-AIDES NEWSLETTER



For all that has been, thanks...

...For all that will be, YES!!

During this month of November, we find ourselves on the threshold of a new liturgical year, heralded by the season of Advent—a time of anticipation and preparation. This time of year in early America was also quite busy as crops were harvested from once planted seeds, foodstuffs preserved, and final preparations were being made for winter. Today, we face a similar situation. Our families' schedules and calendars are full. Time tends to be a rare commodity. Often in our restless preparations, we forget to focus on the reason behind the frantic activity. And yet when we pause to reflect for a moment, we might realize that indeed much growth has occurred, and our harvest is plentiful. We truly have much for which to be thankful, and to celebrate God's bounteous blessings and gifts in our lives.

In that vein, I also want to extend my thanks and appreciation for your dedication and commitment to helping in our religious education program. Never underestimate the impact you have on a young person's life and faith development. That is HUGE!!! You are helping them come to know and love Jesus Christ. How awesome is that! Thank you for saying YES to God's call to help our young Church and for all your sacrifices and efforts you make in this important ministry. Your service is greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR SO

November 17 Grade 5 Level Mass at 10:30am. Please support our students with your presence.
Deadline for students to return Thanksgiving Food Drive Items
Confirmation Penance Service 2pm St. Philip Church

November 24/25 and December 8/9 Diocesan Inventories

I have included in your class folders a copy of the diocesan inventory for grade 1-5 for the grade level you teach. This is just for your review at this point. Please take time to look it over. If you see anything that coincides with the material you are already teaching, please just highlight or reinforce that particular point with your students. On the weekend of Nov 24/25 the Fall round of these should be given to students in these grades. Student copies will be given to you that weekend. If you prefer to break up the inventory and have students do sections over a couple of classes that is fine also. Or for those of you with younger students, you can choose to perhaps give them the questions orally and have the aide help in having students write down the responses on the paper. There is room for flexibility here so if you have thoughts/ideas on how this might work better for your particular class, please let me know. Once students have completed the inventory, they are to be collected and returned to me in the folders. For those students who might be absent, please mark their names on a blank copy of the inventory. We will have a make-up day scheduled for December 8/9. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these. There will be a second round of these again in the Spring.

- December 1** Confirmation Rehearsal St. Philip Church
- No classes Sunday Grades K-5 (Thanksgiving weekend break)**
- December 2** **Grade K-5 Monday classes will take place**
- December 6** H.S. and Youth Group Shut In project
- December 7** H.S. Service Project St. Philip Bazaar 9:00am-3:00pm
- December 8** Confirmation 3:00pm St. Paul Cathedral
- December 8/9** Inventory make-up day Grades 1-5
- December 15** H.S. Amplify North American Martyrs Auburn
- December 22** **Grade K-5 Sunday classes will take place**
- December 23** **No classes Grades K-5 Christmas Vacation break**
- December 27** **H.S. and Youth Group LaSalette Trip**
- December 29/30** **No classes Christmas Vacation break**
- January 5/6** **Classes resume**

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to **Ed Romeo** who has achieved provisional certification through our diocesan office of Religious Education. Everyone is encouraged to avail themselves of any diocesan courses leading to certification. A reminder that we will reimburse registration expenses upon successful completion of any course. Please let me know if you are interested in taking any courses. I've included some info below in case you are interested.

Why Be Certified?

Some catechists think of themselves merely as "parish volunteers." They are in fact much more than that. Catechesis is an ecclesial endeavor. The person who agrees to teach religion is not just doing someone a "personal" favor. A catechist is standing for the entire Church whenever she or he ministers to others in the name of Christ. This meaningful endeavor is as old as the Gospel it proclaims.

Your parish has conferred upon you the honor of being a catechist in a particular faith community. With this privilege comes responsibility and an element of trust. Knowledge of Scripture, Tradition and Church teaching is essential to authentic catechesis. Good catechists are not only competent teachers of the faith; they are agents of change. The goal of all catechesis is to lead others to a personal relationship with the living Christ. The responsible catechist is one who continues growing in his or her own faith while consciously learning how to pass that faith on to others in a credible manner.

The Office of Religious Education offers three certificate programs for catechists:

Provisional Certification Basic Certification Master Catechist Certification

Provisional Certification

Provisional Certification is the fundamental program for all catechists. It includes two multi-session courses that could be completed within one year. The courses are:

1. Introduction to the Ministry of the Catechist

- The person and role of the catechist – 3 hrs
- Lesson planning and developmental learning theory – 2 hrs
- Teaching methods and classroom management – 2 hrs
- Spirituality of the Catechist – 6 hrs – retreat

2. Overview of the Creed – 3 options

- ORE sponsored Introduction to the Creed - (16 hrs)
- Dayton on-line: Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- Echoes of Faith Plus: I Believe/We Believe - (8 hrs)

N.B. Provisional certification expires after three years unless the catechist has begun the next level of certification

Basic Certification

Once a catechist has been granted provisional certification, the requirements for Basic Certification may be completed through the DVD-assisted resource Echoes of Faith Plus. Echoes of Faith Plus includes four 8-hour modules beyond "I Believe/We Believe" which was covered in the requirements for provisional certification:

- Scripture
- Liturgy and Sacraments
- Catholic Morality
- Ecclesiology

N.B. Certification at this level should be completed within four years. Once achieved, certification must be maintained by completing one CEU every two years. Facilitators must consult with the ORE before offering any of these modules. (1 CEU = 10 hrs)

Master Catechist

Master Catechist Certification is for those who have come to understand parish catechesis as a personal calling and wish to become knowledgeable and competent in their teaching of the faith. This process must be completed in four years or less. The following courses are required for the Master Catechist Certificate. Each course, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education, includes a required sixteen hours of class time.

- *Introduction to the Creed**
- *Introduction to Scripture*
- *Introduction to Church History*
- *Introduction to Morality*
- *Introduction to Worship and Sacraments*

Candidates may opt to complete these courses through the Dayton on-line program with the following equivalents:

- *Survey of Catholic Doctrine*
- *Introduction to Scripture*
- *Church History I*
- *Introduction to Christian Morality*
- *Sacraments*

N. B. Certification must be maintained by completing one CEU every two years. (1 CEU = 10 hrs)

*Candidates for Master Catechist Certification must complete an Introduction to the Creed beyond the Echoes of Faith Plus *I Believe/We Believe*

Dayton Partnership

The Office of Religious Education and the Catholic School Department have formed a partnership with the University of Dayton “Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation” The VLCFF is an e-learning initiative that supports adult faith formation, in addition to catechist and lay ecclesial leadership formation in the Church. Classes are open to any interested adult and may be applied toward certification requirements. Because our diocese is a VLCFF Partner, your cost is only \$50.00 per course, plus the cost of text. .

HOW TO REGISTER...

1. Go to: <https://vlcff.udayton.edu>
2. Find "**Become a new student**". It may be at the bottom of the page..
3. See "**New Student: Create a profile**." Select this link and follow the instructions.
4. When finished you will be asked if you want to register for a class. If you say “yes” it will give you a list of classes that are coming up in the next cycle.
5. Click on register.

From the VLCFF home page select “Calendar” to view the Schedule of Courses



Thanksgiving Ideas for students and families

<https://www.catechist.com/files/documents/Thanks%20because%20litany.pdf>

<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/free-thanksgiving-prayers-reflections-for-catholic-families>