

Attention all Catechists

It has been the longstanding policy in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston that all catechists should have received their full catechist certificate or be working toward that goal.

Beyond any requirements, don't you want to feel confident in the content you are sharing with others? Don't you want to feel secure that you know the basic teachings of the Church and can correctly answer the questions that come your way?

The Formation Toward Christian Ministry (FTCM) program offers a systematic and comprehensive foundation in the teachings of our faith. Completion of this program goes a long way toward completing the requirements for your full catechist certificate.

Right now the program is being offered in a virtual environment. No travel is necessary.

SEMESTER I COURSES

Saturday mornings

8:30am-10:30, 11:00-1:00pm

Introduction to Scripture: Jan. 16, 23, 30
Old Testament: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13
New Testament: Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 6
Day of Reflection - Biblical Spirituality
Sat., Apr. 10 (8:30-2:30)

SEMESTER II COURSES

Thursdays 7pm-9pm

Catholic Beliefs: Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18
Christology: Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 25, Apr. 8
Sacraments: Apr. 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13
Day of Reflection - Ecclesial Spirituality
Sat., Apr. 17 (8:30-2:30)

SEMESTER III COURSES

Tuesdays 7pm-9pm

Morality: Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16
Church History 1: Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 9, 23, Apr. 6
Church History 2: Apr. 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11
Day of Reflection - Missionary Spirituality
Sat., Apr. 24 (8:30-2:30)

Courses and semesters may be taken in any order, as long as Introduction to Scripture precedes Old & New Testament. Begin with the courses that most interest you or the dates and times that work best for your schedule.

Cost is \$25 per course. Days of Reflection are free.

Financial assistance is granted on a case-by-case basis determined by need. Contact the OEC for an application.

To register for FTCM you must have an account in the Archdiocese's Learning Management System, Capernaum.

If you already have an account go to

https://capernaum.csod.com/catalog/CustomPage.aspx?id=221000383&tab_page_id=221000383.

Here you will have easy access to the full schedule and links to register for individual courses.

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Attention all parents of children and youth

You know that passing on the faith to your children is among the most important tasks you do as a parent. It is part of the commitment you made at your child's baptism. That is why you have them enrolled in faith formation.

You also know that it can be a challenge. Our children and youth hear many messages from many different sources, not all of them helpful.

Yet studies have shown that the parents continue to exercise a great influence on their children. In fact, the most effective way a parent teaches is by example. What we **do** as parents often matters more than what we **say**.

Why not teach your child that growing in knowledge of the faith is important by engaging in on-going learning about the faith yourself as an adult? The Archdiocesan program *Formation Toward Christian Ministry* (FTCM) offers a comprehensive and systematic introduction to Catholic theology for adults. Feel free to sign up for an entire semester or a single topic.

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Attention all Proclaimers of the Word

In order to effectively carry out the ministry of proclamation in the liturgy, one needs to have a level of comfort in understanding the Scriptures that one proclaims. Therefore, *every* Proclaimer of the Word has the responsibility of finding ways that work for him or her in which to engage in ongoing study of the Scriptures.

If you have never had a formal introduction to how Catholics approach and understand the Scriptures, we recommend that you do so. The entire first semester of the FTCM program is dedicated to the study of Scripture. This spring it is being offered virtually. See below for registration information.

If you already have had a basic introduction to Scripture, we recommend that you consider exploring some of the books from which you proclaim in even greater depth. The Archdiocese's Biblical Studies Program is one way to do that. The program offers 10-hour long courses on single books or small collections of related books. For more information visit <http://www.archgh.org/oec/BiblicalStudies>.

Additional online options: Through a partnership with the University of Dayton, parishioners in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston can take 5-week online courses for only \$50. Both introductory and advanced courses are available. Course schedules and registration can be found at <https://vlcff.udayton.edu>

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Attention all Leaders of Breaking Open of the Word

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Attention all Liturgical Ministers!

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Proclaimers of the Word
Music Ministers
Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers, Greeters)
Art & Environment Team Members
Altar Linens

Each time you assist the assembly to enter into the liturgical celebrations in a full, conscious, and active way you help all of the baptized fulfill their duty to participate in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ. Did you know that?

While you may know the practical aspects of your ministry very well, is it time for you to get an update on the theological and liturgical aspects? Knowing these will only enhance your appreciation of the ministry you already do and allow you to enter into this ministry in a deeper and more effective way.

A ten hour course giving a systematic overview of Catholic teaching on the nature of the Liturgy and the Sacraments is being offered as a part of the larger program called Formation Toward Christian Ministry (FTCM). We are asking you to consider signing up for at least this ten hour course. You might be interested in doing more. The full schedule, with the Sacraments course highlighted, is given below.

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Attention all Social Outreach Ministers!

If you are involved in any of the Church's social outreach ministries, the chances are that you know deep in your heart that participating in these ministries is "the right thing to do." Do you have the words to express to other people that doing so is not just "right" but deeply connected to our identity as Catholic Christian disciples of Jesus Christ?

While you may know the practical aspects of your ministry very well, is it time for you to get an update on the theological aspects? Knowing these will only enhance your appreciation of the ministry you already do and allow you to enter into this ministry in a deeper and more effective way.

A ten hour course giving a systematic overview of Catholic teaching on Moral Theology, including its social dimensions, and a day of reflection on Missionary Spirituality are being offered as a part of the larger program called Formation Toward Christian Ministry (FTCM). We are asking you to consider signing up, if not for the entire semester, for at least one of these two. You might be interested in doing more. The full schedule, with these two items highlighted, is given below.

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