

**CATECHISTS NEEDED FOR OUR  
GENERATIONS OF FAITH (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)  
PROGRAM**



**What is a catechist?**

A catechist is someone who, in the name of the Church, presents the story of our Catholic faith to people in an age-appropriate format.

**What is Generations of Faith (GOF)?**

Generations of Faith, or GOF, is a program designed for the whole family, whereby the church and families collaborate in passing on the faith. It is an alternative to the traditional classroom model of religious education. GOF families attend sessions together. Adults, teens, and younger children have separate times where learning happens at age levels. GOF meets seven times throughout the year—families continue the learning and formation in their homes in between each session.

**What are the responsibilities of the GOF catechist? What is the time commitment?**

The role of the GOF catechist is to facilitate a 60-minute “break out” session for a group of teens or younger children, depending on your interest. Ideally, you would do this once a month, through seven sessions, September through April. However, you can just volunteer for the sessions in which you are available.

**Are there age requirements? Who would make a good candidate?**

Yes, we ask that you would be at least of college-age to work with our children and teens. High school students and 8th-grade confirmation candidates are welcome to serve as aides/helpers with the younger children. It is important that you feel comfortable teaching the particular age group to whom you are assigned. Good candidates for GOF catechists are parents, teachers, aspiring teachers, or really anyone who has an interest/passion for accompanying others on their journey of faith.

**What resources are available? Is help provided?**

Each session has a prepared/scripted lesson plan for you and all the resources you need are provided. Your role is to facilitate (not develop) the session. We ask that you read over the materials in advance, and come ready to teach. We can provide all the support you need and answer any questions that you might have. We will also provide a catechist orientation/training

session for ALL catechists in our program during the month of July.

If you are interested in becoming a GOF catechist, please contact Gary Maccaroni at 609-882-6491, ext. 116, or [gmacc@churchofsaintann.net](mailto:gmacc@churchofsaintann.net).



### **We NEED you! You can make a difference!**

We are in need of catechists for our Religious Education program. No prior experience is needed. None of our catechists have advanced degrees in teaching. Perhaps you don't feel that your faith is strong, or deep, enough. That's OK. Time and time again, new catechists marvel at how much teaching the faith to the children or teens

has strengthened their own faith. Perhaps you are intimidated about what to say or how to teach to a group of children or teens you don't know at all. Not to worry, we will orient you and you will have a wonderful, user-friendly guidebook with many suggestions and helps for leading each session. As a catechist, you tell a Story, the Story of our Faith, in the name of the Church. Our Religious Education program meets once a week (on a Sunday morning or Monday evening), September through April. Each session is approximately one hour.

Some new catechists sign up to teach with a friend. We actually encourage team teaching, because two sets of hands are always better than one, particularly with a group of children working on a craft or teens breaking out in small discussion groups. And when one of you can't make it to class, there is always the other who can be there.

#### **What should I expect if I sign up?**

A meeting to answer your questions, and acquaint you with the role. In addition, all catechists will attend an orientation/formation session in July. You will receive a teacher's guide for the textbook of the particular grade that you signed up for, and a schedule. Sometimes the catechists of a particular grade will get together and plan their classes together. Like anything else, once you get started you will get the hang of it, and learn what works for you.

If you would like to be a catechist, or are interested and have questions, contact Gary Maccaroni at 609-882-6491, ext. 116, or at [gmacc@churchofsaintann.net](mailto:gmacc@churchofsaintann.net).