



## Welcome to the Adult Faith Formation – Echoes of Faith ‘Emmaus Edition’ Course Information Page

The new online Echoes of Faith ‘Emmaus Edition Courses’ have been developed to help adults enrich their relationship with Christ and His disciples.

Developed by RCL-Benziger and facilitated by the Office of Religious Education, there are five online courses that explore Scripture, The Creed, Liturgy & Sacraments, Catholic Morality and The Church. Register for one class or all five. It’s up to you. The first course is \$20 and each subsequent course is \$10. **To register, please visit our website:** <https://worcesterdiocese.org/adult-faith-formation> . (These are also courses that can be used toward Diocesan Basic Catechist Certification. If you are interested in catechist certification, please contact the ORE for more details.)

For an overview of each course, please see below. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Pat Heelan at [mheelan@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:mheelan@worcesterdiocese.org).

## Overview of the Scriptures

This module explores the central themes and message of the Bible. It explains what the Bible is and why it is considered the holy book of the Christian community. It introduces some of the foundational stories of the Bible. The module concludes with a reflection on Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the fullness of God’s saving action. It also describes the activity of the disciples as they began to spread Jesus’ message beyond Palestine after his Resurrection.

This module is only a brief introduction to the great themes of Sacred Scripture. As you continue to read, study, and reflect you will grow in knowledge and insight.

Because of the greater complexity of the content within this module, the four segments of this module are divided into parts. Here is an overview of the four segments for this module:

### 1. What Is the Bible?

Part 1: The Word of God

Part 2: The Formation of the Scriptures

Part 3: Literary Forms of the Bible

### 2. Why Is the Bible Holy?

Part 1: The Canon of Sacred Scripture

Part 2: The Context of Sacred Scripture

Part 3: The Inspiration of Sacred Scripture

### **3. What's in the Bible?**

Part 1: A Master Story

Part 2: A Journey of Liberation

Part 3: God's Abiding Presence

### **4. Jesus: The Alpha and the Omega**

Part 1: The New Covenant

Part 2: The Message of Jesus

Part 3: The Christian Message

## **Overview of the Creed - I Believe, We Believe**

I Believe, We Believe will acquaint you with the central creedal statements of the Catholic Church. One goal is to help you reflect upon and articulate your personal faith. Another goal is to understand more fully the truths you profess as a member of the believing community so that you can share your faith with others. This presentation of the truths of your faith is not an exhaustive treatment of these beliefs; it is only an introduction to them. However, through the process of reflection on the content provided here, you will increase your understanding of the truths of the Catholic faith and feel more confident in expressing them.

Each of the four segments in this module is divided into parts. Here is an overview of the topics that the four segments will explore:

### **1. God the Father**

Part 1: God the Creator

Part 2: The Revelation of God

Part 3: Faith - Call and Response

Part 4: God the Holy Trinity

### **2. God the Son**

Part 1: The Fullness of God's Revelation

Part 2: The Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery

Part 3: The Reign of God

Part 4: The Sermon on the Mount

### **3. God the Holy Spirit**

Part 1: The Holy Spirit Animator

Part 2: The Call to Conversion

Part 3: The Voice of the Spirit

Part 4: The Holy Spirit in the Church

#### **4. The Christian Creed**

Part 1: The Living Water of Jesus

Part 2: The Early Church

Part 3: The Value of Creeds

Part 4: The Faithful on Earth

## **Overview of Liturgy and Sacraments**

The second pillar, or section, of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, The Celebration of the Christian Mystery, addresses the Church's liturgy and sacraments. You will learn how the patterns and meaning of rituals used in the Christian liturgy provide avenues into the mystery of God. You will explore Catholicism's sacramental principle, and receive a brief introduction to the seven sacraments.

This module is only a brief introduction to the Church's liturgy and sacraments. As you continue to read, study, and reflect you will grow in knowledge and insight. Each of the four segments in this module is divided into parts. Here is an overview of the topics that each segment of the module will explore:

#### **1. The Meaning of Liturgy**

Part 1: The Paschal Mystery

Part 2: Defining Liturgy

Part 3: Symbolic Actions

#### **2. The Sacraments of Initiation**

Part 1: The Sacramental Principle

Part 2: The Sacrament of Baptism

Part 3: The Sacrament of Confirmation

#### **3. The Eucharist**

Part 1: Eucharist- Source and Summit

Part 2: The Liturgy of the Word

Part 3: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### **4. Sacraments of Healing and Service**

Part 1: The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Part 2: The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Part 3: The Sacrament of Holy Orders

Part 4: The Sacrament of Matrimony

## Overview of Catholic Morality

The third pillar, or section, of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Life in Christ, addresses the topic of morality. Morality deals with how we are to live as Christians. We seek this understanding in and through Jesus, who describes himself as “. . . the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). The goal of this module is to explore the foundations of Catholic morality and the practice of the moral life.

This module is only a brief introduction to the vast tradition of Catholic morality. As you continue to read, study, and reflect you will grow in knowledge and insight. Each of the four segments in this module is divided into parts. Here is an overview of the topics that each segment of the module will explore:

### 1. Happiness in Life

Part 1: True Happiness

Part 2: A Virtuous Life

Part 3: Being Salt and Light

### 2. Life in Christ

Part 1: The Commandments

Part 2: The Virtues

Part 3: Sin and Conscience

### 3. Living as Children of God

Part 1: Sources of Morality

Part 2: Discerning Moral Responsibility

Part 3: The Virtuous Person

### 4. The Moral Life of the Community

Part 1: Formed by the Community

Part 2: Transformed by Grace

Part 3: Life of Discipleship

## Overview of The Church

This module will introduce you to some basic understandings about the origin, mission and nature of the Catholic Church. You also will learn about the Church’s hierarchical structure, and about the major divisions that have divided Christians in our common history. The module closes with a segment on Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. Each of the six segments in this module is divided into parts. Here is an overview of the topics that each segment of the module will explore:

### 1. The Origin of the Church: the Church’s Foundation in Jesus Christ

Part 1: Jesus and the Church

Part 2: Reign of God on Earth

Part 3: The Holy Spirit in the Church

**2. The Mission of the Church:** the Church's mission to evangelize all nations

Part 1: Sharing the Joy of the Gospel

Part 2: The New Evangelization

Part 3: The Mission of Disciples

**3. The Nature of the Church:** the meaning of the Church

Part 1: The People of God

Part 2: The Body of Christ

Part 3: The Communion of Saints

**4. The Church Ordered:** the hierarchy of the Church and the roles within it

Part 1: The Order of Clergy

Part 2: The Role of the Laity

Part 3: The Consecrated Life

**5. The Church for Renewal:** the Church's efforts to restore unity to God's people

Part 1: The Early Church

Part 2: A Period of Reform

Part 3: Fruitful Dialogue

**6. Mary, Mother of the Church:** Mary's unique place in the Church as Mother of God and as a model of faith and discipleship

Part 1: Mary's Unique Role

Part 2: Marian devotions

Part 3: Teachings about Mary