



CATECHIST PROGRAM

Foundation for Catechist Certification: Code of Canon Law

803.2 *The instruction and education in a Catholic school must be grounded in the principles of Catholic doctrine: teachers are to be outstanding in correct doctrine and integrity of life*

804.2 *The local ordinary is to be concerned that those who are designated teachers of religious instruction in schools, even in non-Catholic ones, are outstanding in correct doctrine, the witness of a Christian life and teaching skill.*

805 *For his own diocese the local ordinary has the right to appoint or approve teachers of religion and even to remove them or demand that they be removed if a reason of religion or morals requires it.*

Certification Hours:

Certificate	Required Certification Hours
New Hire Catechist	begin accruing hours in first 2 years of employment
Initial Catechist	10 hours total
Basic Catechist	30 hours total
Advanced Catechist	78 hours total
Master Catechist <i>optional</i>	20 <u>credit</u> hours Undergraduate or Graduate credit
***Accrue a minimum of 5 catechist's hours annually	

Content Requirements:

Pillar I: Profession of Faith

Scripture

- Old Testament
- Ten Commandments
- New Testament
- Trinity and Images of God
- Christology and Redemption
- Mary, Church, and the Saints

Theology

- Creed
- Church History
- Catholic Culture and Tradition
- Apologetics
- Church Documents
- Catholic Spiritualities
- Ecumenism
- Living the Faith in Societ

Pillar II: Celebration of the Christian Mystery

Liturgy and Sacraments

- The Paschal Mystery
- Sacramental Theology
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Sacraments of Healing
- Sacraments at the Service of Communion
- Effective Liturgy

Pillar III: Life in Christ

Morality and Social Justice

- Faith and Human Development
- Science and Faith
- Dignity of the Human Person
- Theology of the Body
- Bioethics
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Conscience Formation and Decision-Making

Spiritually and Prayer

- Vocation of the Catholic School Teacher
- Building a faith community
- Spiritual person Call to Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Forms and Styles of Prayer

Catechetical Formation and Methodology

- Ministry Formation
- Evangelization and the Nature of Catechesis
- Catechetical Process
- Learning and Teaching Style

Pillar IV: Christian Prayer

Catechist Themes from Religion Standards

Creed

1. **Knowledge of Faith** ~ gives believers a knowledge of the content of God's self-revelation found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and by introducing them to the meaning of the Creed.
2. Know that the **Creed** is the statement of the Church's beliefs and explore each statement within the Creed.
3. Explain how the Nicene and Apostles' Creed articulate the Trinity.
4. Discuss ways in which the **Nicene Creed** resolved conflicts in the Church during the 4th century.
5. Recognize that faith is the gift of believing in God.

The Mystery of the Holy Trinity

1. Understand that the Son is born of the Father and that the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.
2. Recognize the **Trinity** as God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3. Identify the Father as the first Divine Person of the **Holy Trinity** from which comes the Son and Spirit and to which the Son and Spirit lead us.
4. Recognize the **Holy Trinity** is one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
5. Articulate that the central mystery of the Christian faith is the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
6. Describe the Trinity as a complete unity without confusing the persons or dividing the substance of God
7. Know that the Holy Spirit helped the **Apostles** understand and spread Jesus' teachings.

Divine Revelation

1. Identify ways God reveals Himself to us in scripture tradition, and creation.

Old Testament

1. Explain how God reveals himself to us in Scripture and tradition
2. Articulate how the prophets conveyed God's message to His people and how it applies today.
3. Describe promises that were made in the Old Testament and how Jesus fulfills those promises. Identify points in time in the Old Testament where the Word of God is present and how that Word came to fulfillment in the **Incarnation**.

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1. Connect the parts of the Mass with the Old Testament.
 2. Recognize the way in which the Old Testament reading corresponds with the Gospel reading at Mass.

New Testament

1. Explain how Jesus fulfills the promises made in the Old Testament in Scripture and tradition.
2. Explain why Matthew, Mark, and Luke are considered "**synoptic**" and how the synoptic Gospels differ from the Gospel of John.
3. Describe the distinction and the purpose of the books of the New Testament separated into four categories: Gospels, Acts, Letters, and Revelation.

Hermeneutics (theory & methodology of the interpretation of Biblical text)

1. Identify that the Bible holds the readings of Sacred Scripture
2. Understand the **Bible** as stories in which God's speaks to people.
3. Know that the Bible, also called **Scripture**, is an important source for learning how to live the Christian life.

4. Understand that the Bible is the Word of God, written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by humans. It is the holy book of the Church.
5. Describe how the Bible came to be written from the oral tradition to the Canon of Scripture.

Jesus

1. Explain how God's revelation reached its fullness in Jesus, who made a new covenant with humanity through his death and resurrection.
2. Know that Jesus ascended to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit to be with them always (**Pentecost**).
3. Explain the concept and importance of the Incarnation, the Paschal Mystery, the Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.
4. Describe how God the Father sent the Son, Jesus, to redeem us and how the grace of the Holy Spirit continues to give us new life.

Mary & Communion of the Saints

1. Recognize the images within the Old Testament that find their fulfillment in the person of Mary (e.g. Mary as the new Eve, Sarah's conception, Psalms).
2. Identify ways in which the lives of Jesus, Mary, and the Saints are celebrated throughout the liturgical year.
3. Describe how in prayer we ask the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints to intercede for us with God.
4. Recognize the Rosary as a prayer to Mary about the life of Jesus.
5. Describe how in prayer we ask the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints to intercede for us with God.
6. Recognize the Rosary as a prayer to Mary about the life of Jesus
7. Recognize that Mary and the Saints intercede on our behalf in prayer.
8. Recognize the difference between the worship of God and intercessory prayer through Mary and the Saints.
9. Explain how the "Our Father" is a summary of faith and a model for Christian prayer.
10. Articulate the history and purpose of the Rosary.
11. Explain the different mysteries of the Rosary

Church

Mass & Prayer

1. Know that there are two parts of the Mass: **Liturgy of the Word** which is readings from the Old and New Testaments and **Liturgy of the Eucharist** in which Jesus Christ gives us the gift of himself and we receive his Body and Blood in Holy Communion.
2. Explain ways the Liturgy engages the five senses.
3. Explain the way in which the feast days impact the liturgical cycle.

4. Articulate the names and colors and participate in the practices of the liturgical year.

Church History & Ecclesiology

1. Know that the **Marks of the Church** are the four characteristics that identify Christ's Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
2. Name and discuss the **Precepts** of the Church.
3. Explore moments of transition in the life of the Church to include:
 - Edict of Milan & the legalization of Christianity
 - Ecumenical Council of 4 & 5th century (councils of Nicaea, Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon)
 - Monastic Tradition
 - Catholic Orthodox (East & West) Schism
 - Mendicant Tradition (Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites)
 - Scholasticism and the rise of the university
 - Protestant reformation & Council of Trent
 - Vatican Council II

Sacraments

1. Explore Old Testament scripture that provide the foundations to the Sacraments.
2. Identify that Jesus gave the Church seven sacraments as a way to celebrate and remember God's love for us.
3. Know that the Sacraments are how Catholics worship God and celebrate their faith.
4. Recognize that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is revealed in the Scriptures, the Church, and the Sacraments
5. Know the seven **Sacraments** are visible signs of God's love that allow us to share in God's life and work.
6. Identify the priest's role in celebrating the Sacraments
7. Define **Sacrament** as an outward sign, instituted by Christ to give grace.
8. Identify and exemplify signs and symbols of the seven Sacraments
9. Discuss the ways we encounter God through the Sacraments.

Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation)

1. Explore scripture that provides the foundation for the **Sacraments of Initiation**
2. Identify signs and symbols of the **Sacraments of Initiation**
3. Know that the Sacrament of **Baptism**, the first Sacrament received, makes a person a child of God and a member of the Church, taking away Original Sin and all personal sin.
4. Know that by the Sacrament of **Confirmation**, we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit so as to be able to participate in the Church's mission, to share the Gospel, and serve God and others.

Reconciliation

1. Explore scripture that provides the foundation for the **Reconciliation**
2. Identify signs and symbols of the **Reconciliation**
3. Relate the **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy** to Old Testament passages.
4. Utilize the Ten Commandments, the Great Commandment, and the Beatitudes as a basis for moral life in union with God.
5. Understand that the word “beatitude” means blessing or happiness. The **Beatitudes** are Jesus’ teaching about the way to true happiness and God’s Kingdom.
6. Explain the relationship of The Beatitudes, The Great Commandment, and the Ten Commandments.
7. Relate the Ten Commandments, The Great Commandment and Beatitudes to contemporary situations such as: bullying/harassment, dishonesty, cruelty, stereotyping, discrimination, family conflict and divorce.

Vocations: Matrimony & Holy Orders

1. Know that **vocation** is God’s plan for our lives, the purpose for which He made us.
2. Understand through the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony the work of the Church is sustained for the future.
3. Understand that **Holy Orders** is the Sacrament in which baptized men are ordained as deacons, priests or bishops to lead and serve the Church.
4. **Matrimony** is the Sacrament that joins a baptized man and a baptized woman in Christian marriage to serve God by loving and serving each other and any children God gives them.

The Last Things: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory

Prayer

1. Identify the Scriptural roots from the New Testament of Liturgical prayers
2. Explore how the “our Father” is a summary of faith and a model for Christian prayer.
 - Leading prayer services
 - Practicing personal prayer
 - Leading/planning retreats
 - Theological reflection
 - Liturgical prayer - the Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours
 - The Lord’s Prayer
 - Adoration and Benediction
 - Lectio Divina
 - Praying with the Psalms
 - Praying with icons
 - Christian Discernment
 - Ignatian prayer

Morality: Christian Living Curriculum

Moral Development

1. Take responsibility for one's own actions in light of Gospel values.
2. Explain the role of conscience formation in making moral decisions.
3. Identify Church's teachings on respect for life issues (e.g. euthanasia, suicide, capital punishment, bioethical issues, war).
4. Understand and practice discernment.

Gender/Sexuality & Marriage and Family

1. Appreciate the human body as God's creation and as a temple of the Holy Spirit.
2. Demonstrate respect for the life and dignity of the human person and their own body.
3. Identify the psychological, emotional, and physical stages in human development and that people go through these stages at different rates.
4. Understand and accept the physical, psychological and intellectual changes accompanying puberty as positive signs of growth.
5. Discuss psychosexual changes (sexual impulses).
6. Identify appropriate resources to help to answer questions relating to personal growth and development.
7. Recognize the negative effects of sexual harassment (e.g. legal, emotional, physical, and psychological).
8. Identify opportunities for healthy and balanced interaction with the opposite gender.
9. Understand different stages of relationships and dating.
10. Examine the negative emotional, health, and moral issues of premarital sexual activity.
11. Understand the difference between chastity and celibacy and explain how chastity is a positive virtue.
12. Discuss pornography and prostitution as destructive behaviors and contrary to Christian values.
13. Understand the Sacrament of Matrimony as the covenant relationship between a man and woman.
14. Understand that procreation is part of God's plan.
15. Explain the Church's teaching on birth control.
16. Discuss the theological, moral, philosophical arguments against abortion.

Bioethics

Creed is the basis to frame the sessions. What does it mean to believe? What is faith? The difference between belief, faith, spirituality, and religion

Sessions

1. Creed and “I believe”
 - a. Images of God
 - b. Faith and belief
 - c. God’s invitation to relationship
 - d. Our response to the invitation
 - e. Spirituality and religion
 - f. Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed
2. The Mystery of the Holy Trinity
 - a. Images of the Holy Trinity - icons, metaphors, etc.
 - b. Divine personhood
 - c. What is a **person**? (Important later in morality sessions, make sure these definitions are in alignment)
3. Divine Revelation
 - a. What is Divine Revelation?
 - b. How God reveals himself
 - c. Jesus as the fullness of Revelation
4. Sacred Scripture
 - a. Formation of Old and New Testaments
 - b. Development of the canon of scripture
 - c. Septuagint
5. Salvation History
 - a. The twelve periods of Salvation History
 - i. Early World
 - ii. Patriarchs
 - iii. Egypt and Exodus
 - iv. Desert Wanderings
 - v. Conquest and Judges
 - vi. Royal Kingdom
 - vii. Divided Kingdom
 - viii. The Exile
 - ix. The Return
 - x. Maccabean Revolt
 - xi. Messianic Fulfillment
 - xii. The Church

Program Resource Options

Diocesan training, Regional workshops, Parish workshops, Echoes of Faith series, Fr. Barron series, University course work

1. Local Priests, Religious, Lay leaders (see format below)
2. Echoes of Faith- DVD & study guide
 - a. Theology:
 - I Believe – We Believe: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, The Christian Creed
 - The Scriptures: What is the Bible? Why is the Bible Holy? What’s in the Bible? Jesus: The Alpha and the Omega
 - Liturgy and Sacraments: What is Liturgy? Liturgy and Christian Identity, Sacraments of Initiation, Sacraments of Healing and Service
 - Prayer and Spirituality: What is Prayer? How Do We Pray? The Prayerful Life, The Our Father
 - Catholic Morality: Foundations of the Moral Life, Objective and Subjective Morality, Morality of Human Actions, Conscience of God’s Law
 - b. Methodology:
 - Adult Faith Formation: Journey of faith, value of faith sharing groups, facilitating faith sharing groups, catechesis and transformation
 - The Learner: Building knowledge, relating to others, learning to love, growing in faith
 - Methods: Grades 1 & 2, Grades 3 & 4, Grades 5 & 6, Grades 7 & 8
 - c. Catechist:
 - Getting Started: Creating physical environment, nurturing the social environment, using creative activities, planning for success
 - Roles of the Catechist: Teacher-Companion, storyteller, leader of prayer, witness of justice
 - Person of the Catechist: Vocation, Qualities, growing as catechist, trusting the spirit
3. Bishop Robert Barron ~ Catholicism, The Journey of a Lifetime DVD series & study guide
 - a. The Revelation of God Become Man
 - b. The Teachings of Jesus
 - c. The Ineffable Mystery of God
 - d. Mary, the Mother of God
 - e. Peter, Paul, and the Missionary Adventure
 - f. The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church
 - g. The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist
 - h. The Communion of Saints
 - i. The Last Things
4. Jeff Cavins ~Salvation History \$204 starter kit

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/the-bible-timeline-the-story-of-salvation/products/bible-timeline-story-salvation-version-2-review-pack>

Local Priests, Religious, Lay leaders Format:

Organization is based on the Four Pillars of the Catechism: Profession of Faith (Creed), Sacraments, Morality, and prayer is embedded in all pillars. Focuses on Catholic understanding of divine revelation through scripture.

Presentations will include: a didactic element, a pastoral/application element, be infused with prayer & reflection, and art, music and/or literature whenever possible – 60-90 minutes

Format

Presentation: 45 minutes

- Share the background of the topic and its relationship to foundation of our Church and liturgy
- Break down the meaning of the topic and the scripture which supports the top

Teacher Discussion and Lesson Design: 30 minutes

- How will you impart this knowledge to your students at their appropriate grade level?
- How can you engage your students in this learning?
- What activities can you use?