



JOB DESCRIPTION: CATECHIST

Religious Education teachers are called catechists. A catechist (from the Greek word “to echo”) is someone commissioned by the parish to hand down its faith tradition.

Supported by Faith Formation Staff

- Weekly curriculum guides by grade level
- Hands-on classroom resources, including materials, calendars and more
- 1:1 mentoring and support from Faith Formation staff and other catechists
- Textbooks from Loyola Press well supported with video, art and online resources.

Qualities

- A practicing Catholic, baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith
- A desire to grow in and share the Catholic faith
- An awareness of God’s grace and the desire to respond to that grace
- A commitment to the Church’s liturgical and sacramental life and moral teachings
- A generosity of spirit, respect for diversity, and a habit of hospitality and inclusion

Knowledge and Skills

- Basic understanding of Catholic teaching, Scripture, Catholic Tradition and a willingness to learn about Ignatian charism and an openness to pray in the Ignatian manner
- Honest and caring relationships with the age group being served

Requirements

- Complete initial application (interview with staff and background check)
- Complete Virtus training (including any supplemental training, if required)
- Attend Catechist Kickoff Meeting and Advent and Lent Workshops
- Advise RE staff of any substitute needs at least one week in advance
- Maintain safety and privacy of students
- Communicate via email weekly or biweekly with parents

Expectations

- Attend Mass regularly
- Foster an environment of prayer each week to include a variety of forms, incorporating Ignatian Spirituality
- Prepare lessons in advance, giving careful consideration to the developmental level of the grade being taught (per curriculum approved by Archdiocese of Washington)
- Work as a team with co-catechist(s), substitutes, room parents and other volunteers
- Arrive at least 15 minutes early to set up classroom
- Incorporate a variety of techniques (visual, verbal, musical, physical) to facilitate varying learning styles of students
- Restore and clean classroom at the end of each class

Time Commitment

- Four-hour kickoff workshop on a Saturday (Fall)
- Two two-hour seasonal workshops (Advent and Lent) on Sundays after class
- 1-2 hours weekly at-home class preparation
- 90 minutes on Sundays (including prep, teaching, cleanup time) from September – May (holidays excluded)