

Qualities of a Catechist

- ♥ A desire to grow in and share the Catholic faith
- ♥ A strength of character built on patience, responsibility, confidence, and creativity
- ♥ A generosity of spirit, respect for diversity, and a habit of hospitality and inclusion

Knowledge and Skills:

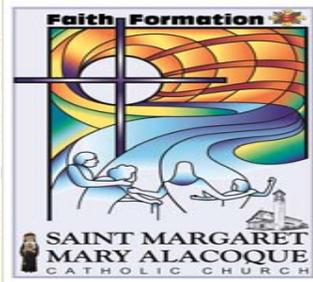
- ♥ A basic understanding of Catholic teaching, Scripture, and Catholic Tradition
- ♥ Honest and caring relationships with the age group being served
- ♥ Effective teaching techniques and strategies

Responsibilities

- ♥ Complete initial training/formation
- ♥ Complete Virtus training
- ♥ Commit to teaching 12 to 24 sessions
- ♥ Attend quarterly catechist meetings
- ♥ Commit to ongoing formation



Prayer of a Catechist



God of life and love,
We lift our hearts to you
in praise and thanksgiving.

We bless you for the
goodness and beauty of
creation, for the rhythm of
sunrises and sunsets, for
the patterns of color and texture of growing things that
sustain our hope in the abundance of what is to come.

We bless you for the landscape of our lives, for our
successes and failures, for the friends and enemies who
weave a mosaic through our horizon.

We praise you for all your works.

We ask for grateful hearts and a spirit of generosity. Free
us from being stingy with our words of praise and
affirmation and our acts of forgiveness.

Open us to the abundance of life and love you set
before us.

Amen.

For more information about be-
coming a catechist contact Director
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Why Be A Catechist?

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I
have commanded you. And behold, I am
with you always, until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20



becoming a catechist

What is a Catechist

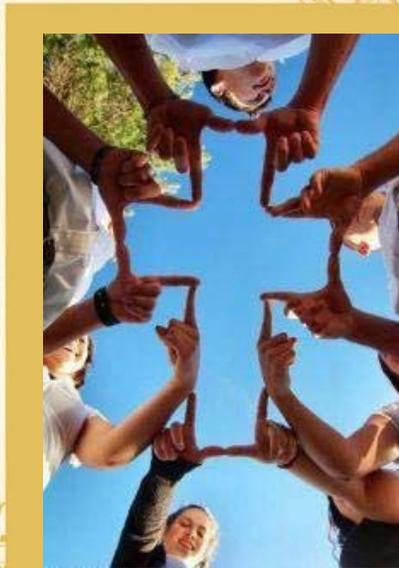
The original meaning of the word catechist is "master" or one that "echoes" the word of God. However, a catechist is more than a teacher who has knowledge of the facts of the Catholic tradition and teachings. A catechist is a "minister" of the church, someone who is commissioned by the community to help spread the faith to children of the parish. A catechist is also a "proclamation" of the Good News of Christ, who assumes that he / she really believes in Christ and therefore teaches with joy and enthusiasm. A catechist is a "mentor" showing children with their own example how to live as a Christian in the celebration of the sacraments, and how to live as Christians in the midst of the frequent conflicts in social values.

We need you!

Every year here at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish we have over 200 people that volunteer to share their faith with our children, youth, young adults and adults. Our classes are conducted in a

small group of 15 or fewer students. Previous experience is not necessary. Maybe you do not feel that your faith is strong or deep enough. That's fine. Again and again, new catechists marvel that their faith has been strengthened by their sharing the faith with others. Maybe you're intimidated by what to say or how to teach a group of people who know little about their faith. Do not worry, we will guide you. We have a wonderful and easy-to-use textbook and lesson plans available, with many hints and tips on how to lead each class. There are also many resources in the Office of Religious Education at your disposal.

Many new catechists that decide to teach sign up a friend to teach with them. In fact we recommend team teaching, as two pairs of hands are always better than one. And when one of you can not go to class, there is always another who can be there.



Top Ten Reasons to be a Catechist

1. You will grow in your own faith and deepen your relationship with Jesus.
2. Your baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
3. More than ever, children, teens, and adults in today's world need to hear the Good News of Jesus.
4. Children, teens, and adults in need to encounter good role models of faith.
5. You have much to share with those you'll teach and you'll have opportunities to share faith with other catechists.
6. Today's catechetical textbooks/resources offer outstanding support.
7. You'll be challenged, you'll have fun, and you'll make new friends.
8. You'll be helping people deepen their relationship with Jesus (you'll be evangelizing!)
9. You'll be handing on a 2000-year-old Tradition that changes lives.
10. It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."