



Sacred Heart
PARISH

Sacred Heart Parish Mission Statement: Striving to be a grateful parish following Christ by loving God, and loving our neighbors as ourselves through our words, deeds, and thoughts.

Sacred Heart Faith Formation Mission Statement: Walking with all generations, Sacred Heart Faith Formation strives to equip parishioners to recognize, claim, know, and live out their faith in the church and the world.

Goals: Our parishioners will...

1. Become curious about Christ and his ways.
2. Grow in their sense of belonging to Christ and the Christian community.
3. Gain interest and therefore knowledge in foundational beliefs and elements of the faith.
4. Deepen participation in the life of the church through liturgy and worship.
5. Practice missionary discipleship through Christian service.

POSITION: CATECHIST – LEAD/CO-LEAD

Overview and Service Impact: Being a Catechist is deeply connected to the gifts we are given at Baptism and that are strengthened at Confirmation. It is worth taking the time to discern if God is calling you to serve in this way. Lead and Co-Lead Catechists will lead faith formation sessions for various age groups, exploring topics of faith using the age appropriate learning program and materials provided and nurturing the faith of their classroom participants. They will walk with one of the following groups, helping them to come to know their Catholic faith and love God in a deeper way: adults, middle school youth, high school youth, elementary aged children, preschool children and their parents.

Key Responsibilities:

- Attend the scheduled meetings/training sessions and retreats and pursue continuing education opportunities as well as opportunities for spiritual growth
- Become familiar with the classroom they will be working from and with the resources available to them in the classroom
- Familiarize themselves with the syllabus for the year, the catechetical texts and resources, the diocesan guidelines for the grade group they have chosen/been assigned and, if appropriate, the characteristics of elementary children or middle school/high school youth appropriate to their grade group
- Commit to preparing well and carefully for each session before arriving at classroom, being sure to arrive early enough to set up and check supplies. Request additional materials at least three days in advance as needed including but not limited to copies of blackline masters and other handouts
- Model God's grace in relationships within the class. Relate to the participants in a compassionate and respectful manner and foster a sense of security as well as a safe space with participants, making boundaries and guidelines for classroom participation clear
- Handle classroom management with the support of the Co-Lead or Assistant Catechist, seeking help from the Director of Faith Formation for any issues that arise that they are unable to manage
- Be familiar with Diocesan Safe Environment policies and report any issues of safe environment, emergency medical needs or unsafe classroom behaviors to the Director of Faith Formation or the Pastor immediately
- Have fun and enjoy the growth in faith, fellowship and community that comes from leading a class of learners!

Time Commitment: Lead and Co-Lead Catechists will be responsible for leading 12 – 1 to 1½ hour sessions per school year as well as three – 1 hour scheduled meetings/training sessions per school year, two – 2 hour retreats per school year and continuing ed/spiritual growth opportunities. They will also be responsible for at least 2 hours of prep for each of the 12 classroom sessions.

Qualifications/Requirements: Lead or Co-Lead Catechists should be practicing faith-filled and faithful Catholics willing to share the Gospel message with others in a classroom setting. They should have a good basic knowledge of their faith and be willing to grow in that knowledge through continuing education and spiritual opportunities as well as being willing to take direction and give direction when needed. They should model Christian values and be good with people as well as being organized, dependable, consistent and committed to their area of ministry. Additionally, they should be willing to make time to practice good self-care. As someone who is nurturing others in their faith, it's vital that the Catechist spend time taking care of their own spirituality, physical and emotional health. Safe environment training and background checks for the Diocese of St. Cloud must be completed and an initial discernment meeting with the Director of Faith Formation will be required.

Training Provided: In order to develop and strengthen the skills for ministry as a Catechist, opportunities for training will be provided at the scheduled meetings as well as through other resources that will be made available throughout the year. The first scheduled meeting will provide an orientation/refresher for Catechists and it is during this meeting curriculum and other materials will be distributed.

Supported by: Director of Faith Formation, Pastor, the community of Sacred Heart

Benefits: Being a Lead or Co-Lead Catechist can be a challenging and daunting task but the blessings are great for those who receive the call to this particular ministry in the church. Here are some of the blessings that may be part of the Catechist's experience:

- Helping others grow in their faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus
- Seeing hearts and minds unfold and blossom
- Growth in your own faith
- Affirmation of the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you for ministry
- Developing lasting friendships with other Catechists and with the community of faith
- Joy at seeing God working in the gifts we offer for the building up of the Kingdom

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