



**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 – ASSISTANT**

**Overview and Service Impact:** Being an Assistant 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. Assistant Catechists will assist Lead or Co-Lead Catechists in faith formation sessions for various age groups, exploring topics of faith and helping to nurture the faith of classroom participants. They will walk with the Lead or Co-Lead Catechist in one of the following groups as they help them to come to know their Catholic faith and love God in a deeper way: middle 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 Lead or Co-Lead Catechist as well as the classroom they will be working from
- 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
- Arrive early to assist the Lead or Co-Lead Catechist in set up and checking supplies
- Assist Lead or Co-Lead Catechist with hands-on projects and group activities, leading or directing small discussion/work groups with assigned tasks and in handing out supplies, blackline masters and other handouts within the classroom setting
- Model God's grace in relationships within the class. Relate to the participants in a compassionate and respectful manner and help Lead or Co-Lead Catechist to foster a sense of security as well as a safe space with participants by upholding boundaries and guidelines for classroom participation
- Assist Lead or Co-Lead Catechist as needed in handling classroom management, seeking help from the Director of Faith Formation for any issues that arise within the classroom
- 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 helping in a class of learners!

**Time Commitment:** Assistant Catechists will be responsible for helping in 12 – 1 to 1½ hour sessions per school year as well as attending three – 1 hour scheduled meetings/training sessions per school year, two – 2 hour retreats per school year and continuing ed/spiritual growth opportunities.

**Qualifications/Requirements:** Assistant Catechists should be practicing faith-filled and faithful Catholics willing to model and 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 helping to nurture others in their faith, it's vital that the Assistant 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 an Assistant 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 Assistant Catechists.

**Supported by:** Lead/Co-Lead Catechist, Director of Faith Formation, Pastor, the community of Sacred Heart

**Benefits:** Being an Assistant Catechist can be a challenging 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 Assistant Catechist's experience:

- Growth in your own faith
- Experience the work of the Holy Spirit in the classroom
- Affirmation of the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you for ministry
- Developing lasting friendships with others in faith formation ministry and with the community of faith
- Joy at seeing God working in the gifts we offer for the building up of the Kingdom

3875 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 ~ [jhaman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org](mailto:jhaman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org) ~ 320-251-8115 ext. 117