

Level I courses are:

I Believe/We Believe

This course explores the central creedal statements of the Catholic Church. The primary foci are: the three persons of the Blessed Trinity, the church and the formation of the creeds.

Catholic Understanding of Scripture

This course explores the central themes and message of the Bible, as well as the formation of the scriptures, inspiration and revelation.

Liturgy and Sacraments

The course explores the definition of liturgy and its relationship to our Christian identity. All seven sacraments are examined.

Catholic Morality

This course examines definitions of morality and virtue, sin, moral action, and conscience. It also explores the commandments, beatitudes and principles of Catholic social teaching.

Prayer and Spirituality

This course reflects on the meaning of Christian prayer, how we grow in our spirituality and ends with a study of the Our Father.

All Level I Courses are offered in the traditional classroom setting upon request in parishes throughout the diocese, as well as online through the Office of Faith Formation.

ANNUAL RENEWAL of this level of certification is expected by taking at least three hours of renewal credit (course offered by diocese, a catechetical conference, adult faith formation class in parish).

Certification Level II

The parish catechist or pastoral minister should complete six required courses, and two of the other four theology courses below to achieve Level II Certification. The six required courses have an asterisk (*) beside them. Each course offered in the traditional classroom format is sixteen hours in length, and has a **fee of \$20 plus textbook(s)**. Online courses are \$40 plus books.

Level II courses are:

1. Old Testament: God's Revelation *
2. New Testament: Revelation in Christ*
3. Creed: Profession of a Living Faith*
4. Sacraments and Worship: Celebration of the Christian Mystery *
5. Catholic Morality: Life in Christ *
6. Christian Prayer & Spirituality: Intimacy with Christ *
7. Christology: Jesus of the Gospels and History
8. Ecclesiology: who We Are as Church in the World
9. Church History: Church throughout Time
10. Mary and the Saints: Companions on the Journey

All Level II Courses are offered in the traditional classroom setting in at least one location in each deanery, and online through the University of Dayton.

ANNUAL RENEWAL of this level of certification is expected by taking at least three hours of renewal credit (course offered by diocese, a catechetical conference, adult faith formation class in parish).

Certification Level III

Level III Certification Requirements

The parish catechist should complete the requirements for a Master's degree in theology or related field from a recognized Catholic university. Master Degree and Certificate programs are offered by both Spring Hill College and Loyola University Extension programs in our diocese.

ANNUAL RENEWAL of this level of certification is expected by taking at least three hours of renewal credit (course offered by diocese, a catechetical conference, adult faith formation class in parish).



Catechist Certification For Parish Catechists

Catholic Diocese of Jackson Office of Faith Formation



Seeds of Faith

Phone: 601-960-8473
601-960-8470



Philosophy

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God.

“The word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian life”

National Directory for Catechesis #17 {NDC}

Therefore “the formation of catechists continues to be a high priority” (NDC #3) in the Catholic Diocese of Jackson.



Catholic Diocese of Jackson
Office of Faith Formation
237 East Amite Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Phone: 601-960-8473
Fax: 601-960-8469

E-mail: jeanne.howard@jacksondiocese.org

The Certification Process

Any catechist in a Parish Religious Education Program, RCIA Facilitator, or Adult Faith Formation facilitator should seek certification. All of these persons are considered catechists.

There is a three-fold purpose to the certification process:

1. To provide the catechist with opportunity and exposure to life-long formation in the Faith of the Church.
2. To provide the catechist with the necessary skills to prepare for the practical aspects of the catechetical ministry in a classroom setting.
3. To provide the catechist with adequate theological knowledge of at least the basic concepts and teachings of the Catholic Church.

In order to accomplish these purposes the Catholic Diocese of Jackson has established three levels of certification. Level I and II begin with two prerequisite introductory courses.

A catechist need not complete one level before going to the next level. **Each level stands alone.**

After each level of certification, each catechist is expected to complete at least three hours of **renewal credit annually.**

NOTE: Catechists, who have received at least Level I *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* training and can provide documentation for this training, are exempt from the Introductory Courses. They need only take Level I: *Creed* and *Catholic Morality* courses. They are also exempt from the other three Level I courses.



Introductory Courses

These two prerequisite courses introduce parish catechetical ministry. They are 3-4 hours each in the traditional class setting, and slightly longer online.

Parish Catechists should take both courses prior to other coursework.

The Role and Person of the Catechist

In this course, catechesis is defined and situated as a Ministry of the Word in the church. The role and vocation of the catechist, qualities of the catechist, and growth as a catechist will be explored.

Faith and Moral Development

The moral and faith development dimension of the learner is explored in this course. Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences theories will also be addressed, with some demonstration of effective learning strategies and techniques.

Certification Level I

Level I Certification Requirements

The parish catechist should complete these five theology courses to achieve Level I Certification. Each course is about four hours in length in a traditional class setting, and 6-8 hours online. There is no cost associated with these courses.