

## 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** is required by taking at least three hours of renewal credit.

## Certification Level II

Religion teachers in Catholic middle/high schools, who have not obtained a theology degree, are required to complete eight theology courses to achieve Level II certification. The teacher should complete six required courses, and two of the other four theology courses listed. The six required courses are asterisk (\*). Each course offered in the traditional classroom format is sixteen hours in length, and has a **fee of \$20 plus textbook(s)**. These courses are generally offered on Saturdays or evenings in each deanery. **Online courses are \$40 plus**

## 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 required

## Certification Level III

### Level III Certification Requirements

The Catholic school religion teacher who seeks Level III certification 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 required.



## Catechist Certification for Catholic School Religion Teachers

## 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](mailto:jeanne.howard@jacksondiocese.org)

# The Certification Process

All Catholic School Religion Teachers are required to work toward one of these levels of certification: Level 1 is required for Elementary School Religion Teachers; and Level II is required for High School Religion Teachers.

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

This prerequisite course introduces the catechetical ministry in a Catholic school setting. They are 3-4 hours each in the traditional class setting, and slightly longer online.

## 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.

# Certification Level I

## Level I Certification Requirements

Catholic elementary school religion teachers, who have not obtained a theology degree, are required to complete these five theology courses to achieve Level I Certification. Each course is about four hours in length. There is no cost associated with these courses.