

# CATECHETICAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Catechists are entrusted with one of the most important tasks: helping children and those entering the Church to come know the truth of Christ and to live it out in their lives. Catechists need training to form them and to support them for this mission. Therefore, in the Archdiocese of Denver, it is encouraged that every catechist will receive formation and training in the following areas:

- Learn about the nature of catechesis, its goals, and how it relates to and differs from education more broadly.
- Understand the core doctrines of the faith and an ability to present them to others.
- Situate catechesis within the New Evangelization and the challenges of contemporary culture.
- Approach the call to teach catechesis within a life of prayer.
- Receive training in catechetical pedagogy, including instruction techniques, following the divine pedagogy, and discipleship.
- Gain familiarity with salvation history, the Bible, and Catechism.

## Catechetical Certificate (offered by the Office of Evangelization and Family Life Ministries)

Step 1	Catechetical Retreat	Attend a catechetical retreat offered at the beginning of the school year by the Office of Evangelization and Family Life Ministries.
Step 2	Complete the Art of Catechesis Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This eight-part course focuses on how to teach catechesis, using the Catechism and key catechetical principles taught by the General Directory for Catechesis.</li> <li>• It will be offered live and online.</li> </ul>
Step 3	Mentorship in the parish with a teaching evaluation	Parish leaders connect newer catechists with more experienced ones. They watch each other teach and meet at least twice throughout the year. The mentor then writes a teaching evaluation with suggestions.
Step 4	Recommendation from the Pastor or his delegate	Using a checklist provided to parishes, the Pastor writes a recommendation for certification of the catechist.
Step 5	Commissioning Ceremony	Catechist is commissioned and receives a Catechetical Certificate

## Certificate in Catechetical Studies (Offered by the Denver Catholic Catechetical School)

The Catechetical School offers a two-year (four semester) study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church entitled, "The Ladder of Ascent." Under the guidance of an experienced and talented instructor, students make an in-depth study of the four areas of the Catechism. For individuals who want to tackle this program in a more accelerated format, we regularly offer a two-week intensive summer program, which covers the same course content. For more detail, see <http://sjvdenver.edu/laydivision/about-2/>.

## Master Catechist Certification (offered jointly by EFLM and the Catechetical School)

Received after completing the Catechist Certification and the Certificate in Catechetical Studies bestowed jointly by the Office of Evangelization and Family Life Ministries and the Catechetical School.