

# Catechist

## Job Description



**Title:** Catechist for St. John Neumann's Religious Education (RE) Program

**Description:** Catechesis is handing on the Word of God. The catechist shares in the mission of the Church by walking in faith and sharing the faith. The catechist has been called ultimately by God to evangelize or share the Good News. Catechists work with children (age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and build community with their families.

**Responsible To:** Catechists are directly responsible to the Director and Coordinator of Religious Education and ultimately responsible to the pastor and the bishop of the Rockford Diocese.

### **Responsibilities of a Catechist:**

- Prepares lesson plans prior to class time using the catechetical materials provided.
- Follows the prepared syllabus, classroom procedures, and Catechist Handbook.
- Arrives before the start of class time to greet arriving students.
- Teaches what the Church teaches.
- Works with an assistant catechist, giving this person specific responsibilities, guided by their job description, and allows for opportunities for the assistant to take the lead in class as appropriate.
- Supervises students' welfare and safety.
- Attends class each week; or if unable to, finds a substitute and informs the RE Office and other classroom catechists and aides.
- Shares and supports the vision and goals of the parish Religious Education program.
- Abides by Diocesan policies, including completing all required forms and training.
- Participates in orientation meetings and grade-level meetings.
- Participates in catechist certification programs.
- Exhibits a positive attitude with children, parents, staff, and the parish community.

### **Personal Qualities Needed:**

- Love of the Lord and love of children
- Willingness to share faith and nurture children's faith
- Openness to the Spirit, to people, to new ideas
- Respect for the dignity of every person



**Length of Commitment:** September to May

### **Benefits to the Catechist:**

- You will grow in faith, deepen your relationship with God, and learn teachings of the Church
- You will answer your baptismal call to share in Jesus' ministry
- Our parish children will hear the Good News and have a good role model
- The RE Office will give you support and affirmation
- You will be challenged, have fun, and make new friends, and you will be evangelizing
- You will be handing on 2,000 years of tradition that has changed people's lives.
- You will be fulfilling your job. Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:16-20)