

**DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY AND ADULT ENRICHMENT
For Altoona-Johnstown Basic and Advanced Certification**

2022-2023 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Catechumenate Team Ministry

Location: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center,
2713 West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona PA

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Thursday evenings, In-person and Virtual Zoom Meeting combination.

Contact Jeanne Thompson for more information: jthompson@dioceseaj.org, at 814-317-2672

Course Description: The course is an overview and exploration of the application of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, the official rite of the Catholic Church for the preparation of Adults seeking the initiation sacraments and full membership in the Catholic Church.

The course content is presented in an adult environment with a combination of experiential and traditional learning styles within the four phase format of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Each phase (Part I, II, III and IV) consists of four 2hours sessions. There are no sessions in Advent, Christmas or Lent.

Requirements for Christian Initiation Certification:

- **Attendance at all course sessions** (Make-up work will be discussed as needed)
- Keep a reflective journal including the Sunday lectionary
- complete a personal one-page reflection after each 4 week Part,
- develop and lead at least two Lectionary based scripture prayer experiences for development of methods
- complete Lay Ecclesial Ministry and Adult Enrichment Program evaluation forms;
- complete and present a practicum which is an application of the *Rite of Initiation of Adults*.
- attend two workshops offered by the Office of Christian Initiation.

2022-2023 Workshops

1. *Understanding the Annulment Process, TBD Saturday, November 5, 2022* at Basilica of St. Michael meeting room, 321 St. Mary Street, Loretto (this workshop is scheduled annually), Very Rev. John D Byrnes, JV. JCL. This workshop is waived for Deacons as a requirement. Voluntary attendance is welcome as a review. The cost is \$10.00.
2. To be announced: Possibly one/two Virtual Platform topical RCIA seminars in lieu of in-person.

Costs and Fee's:

The fee is \$75.00 per person which covers the cost of books and all materials for the 16 week course. This does not include the nominal fee for workshops. \$60.00 for those who already have Rite book.

Registration forms for class are posted on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Christian Initiation website: [www.dioceseaj.org/Christian Initiation](http://www.dioceseaj.org/Christian%20Initiation). **Forms must be completed and returned with the fee no later than September 2, 2022** to:

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown,
Christian Initiation
2713 W. Chestnut Avenue,
Altoona, PA 16601-1720

This course is for Adults who:

- are Clergy (priests and deacons) who did not have a concentrated preparation for implementing the Order (*Rite*) of Christian Initiation of Adults.
- are seeking a Third Year Track course in Lay Ecclesial Ministry
- have completed Basic Catechist Formation and need catechesis for Christian Initiation of Adults
- desire Adult Enrichment and on-going catechesis
- as Directors/Coordinators/Team Members (designated by their pastor/administrator) need a refresher
- have expressed a desire to become active in Christian Initiation Ministry after serving in parish for at least two years in a Catechetical Ministry,

DIocese OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY AND ADULT ENRICHMENT
2022-2023 Calendar Year

THIRD YEAR TRACK: RCIA CATECHUMENATE TEAM MINISTRY

Location: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center,
2713 West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona PA

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Thursday evenings. 4- Four week segments beginning on Thursday, September 15
September 22 (if needed for participants) There are no sessions in Advent, Christmas or Lent

This year classes will be a combination of in-person and virtual Zoom sessions.

Contact Jeanne Thompson for more information: jthompson@dioceseaj.org, at 814-317-2672 and to Register.

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FOUR PERIOD PHASE CONTENT and DATES

Four Parts: 4 weekly sessions in each, 2 workshops, 1 practicum: Total: 75 hours

Virtual Meetings as determined and needed:

Part I and IV: Instructor: Jeanne Thompson, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown,

All Virtual:

Parts II and III: Rev. Brian Saylor, St John the Evangelist Church Pastor, Bellefonte.

2022 Part I. Pre-Catechumenate (also called Period of Evangelization):

September 15, 22, 29 October 6

Topics: Conversion: Church Documents on Evangelization; History of the Catechumenate; overview of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*; faith sharing and praying with the Sunday scriptures; catechesis and adult faith development stages; discernment processes; parish team formation; roles and development of team members; and parish catechesis; sorting “Who’s Coming Into the Church.”

2022 Part II. Catechumenate: October 13, 20, 27, November 3

Topics – faith formation through the study of the Church’s liturgy and the Holy Word of God the Lectionary; tools to lead Dismissal Catechesis for life integration of weekly Gospel; practical techniques for development of Catechetical Sessions.

2023 Part III. Purification and Enlightenment: January 12, 19, 26, February 2

Topics: Study and modeling of the minor rituals within the *Rite of Christian initiation of Adult*: Catechesis and formation of RCIA ritual action; proper use of symbol and song: reflection and study of discussion of the Minor Rites and presentations; catechesis on the liturgies of Holy Week (beginning with Passion Sunday), with particular focus on the Holy Triduum and the Easter Vigil.

2023 Part IV. Mystagogy: April 13, April 27, May 4 (3 sessions 2 ½ hours)

These weeks may be adjusted.

Topics: model for Neophyte prayer reflection from Passion Sunday, Holy Week to Easter Sunday; Resurrection narratives; advanced and on-going catechetical and formation topics and prayer tools; study of; Sacrament of Penance. **Practicum projects must be presented.**

Wrap-up: All must participate in a Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown generated written reflection packet and evaluation, to be submitted to the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office; and a closing interview with the Coordinator of Christian Initiation.