



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Temporalities Secretariat Office of Human Resources

927 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2604

Telephone: (814) 695-5579

Fax: (814) 695-8894

Website: www.dioceseaj.org

July 11, 2017

Will you please be kind enough to include the advertisement below in your next available bulletin?

Thank you!

Lynette

THE MARTHA & MARY HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER

Has Openings for the Following Position:

Resident Services Assistant

This position provides services to the homeless shelter clients and oversees operations at the shelter while ensuring the health and safety of clients. Two shifts are available: Saturday and Sunday; 4:00pm-12:00 midnight and Saturday and Sunday 12:00midnight-8:00am.

To view job description and additional qualifications, go to www.dioceseaj.org. Resumes must be submitted to 927 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; Attn: Lynette McEvoy, Director of Human Resources.



**2017 Catholic Ministries Drive
Parish Progress Report**

01/01/2017 - 06/30/2017

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Gifts/Pledges</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Donors</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Participation</u>	<u>Donor Average</u>
001-Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament	\$ 55,121	\$ 59,780	\$ 4,659	\$ 50,318	188	876	21.46%	\$ 318
002-Saint Mary, Altoona	\$ 31,375	\$ 20,386	\$ (10,989)	\$ 16,521	105	453	23.18%	\$ 194
003-Saint Mark, Altoona	\$ 21,289	\$ 9,810	\$ (11,479)	\$ 7,796	50	299	16.72%	\$ 196
004-Sacred Heart, Altoona	\$ 34,848	\$ 34,205	\$ (643)	\$ 26,269	131	483	27.12%	\$ 261
005-Holy Rosary, Altoona	\$ 19,147	\$ 10,975	\$ (8,172)	\$ 6,855	48	272	17.65%	\$ 229
006-Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Altoona	\$ 39,356	\$ 41,082	\$ 1,726	\$ 34,910	228	761	29.96%	\$ 180
009-St. John the Evangelist, Lakemont	\$ 45,713	\$ 36,975	\$ (8,738)	\$ 30,985	66	516	12.79%	\$ 560
010-Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona	\$ 22,820	\$ 14,252	\$ (8,568)	\$ 11,886	55	322	17.08%	\$ 259
011-Saint Rose of Lima, Altoona	\$ 42,763	\$ 26,457	\$ (16,306)	\$ 24,107	107	584	18.32%	\$ 247
012-Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Altoona	\$ 24,552	\$ 26,036	\$ 1,484	\$ 19,401	131	372	35.22%	\$ 199
014-Saint Thomas Aquinas, Ashville	\$ 10,082	\$ 3,200	\$ (6,882)	\$ 2,925	39	161	24.22%	\$ 82
020-Seven Dolours of the BVM, Beans Cove	\$ 2,559	\$ 2,265	\$ (294)	\$ 1,815	12	41	29.27%	\$ 189
021-Saint Thomas the Apostle, Bedford	\$ 36,913	\$ 26,873	\$ (10,040)	\$ 18,579	103	398	25.88%	\$ 261
022-Saint John the Evangelist, Everett	\$ 8,877	\$ 9,660	\$ 783	\$ 6,740	27	119	22.69%	\$ 358
023-Saint John the Evangelist, Bellefonte	\$ 53,408	\$ 50,302	\$ (3,107)	\$ 39,289	190	898	21.16%	\$ 265
024-Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Spring Mills	\$ 7,489	\$ 19,300	\$ 11,811	\$ 15,167	44	114	38.60%	\$ 439
025-Saint Joseph, Bellwood	\$ 17,682	\$ 22,895	\$ 5,213	\$ 17,185	104	248	41.94%	\$ 220
028-Saint Benedict, Carrolltown	\$ 40,925	\$ 35,120	\$ (5,805)	\$ 32,599	131	773	16.95%	\$ 268
032-Saint Monica, Chest Springs	\$ 10,204	\$ 4,265	\$ (5,939)	\$ 3,975	29	162	17.90%	\$ 147
034-Holy Family, Colver	\$ 8,996	\$ 2,255	\$ (6,741)	\$ 2,105	15	149	10.07%	\$ 150
038-Saint Francis Xavier, Cresson	\$ 22,497	\$ 16,387	\$ (6,110)	\$ 13,762	105	386	27.20%	\$ 156
040-Immaculate Conception, Dudley	\$ 8,327	\$ 3,485	\$ (4,842)	\$ 2,780	21	109	19.27%	\$ 166
041-Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville	\$ 20,796	\$ 9,760	\$ (11,036)	\$ 9,245	48	290	16.55%	\$ 203
043-Holy Name, Ebensburg	\$ 82,491	\$ 36,126	\$ (46,365)	\$ 28,166	178	1,279	13.92%	\$ 203
051-Saint Benedict, Johnstown	\$ 126,624	\$ 53,906	\$ (72,718)	\$ 40,616	241	1,698	14.19%	\$ 224
052-Saint Bernard, Hastings	\$ 26,836	\$ 15,950	\$ (10,886)	\$ 14,610	86	456	18.86%	\$ 185
053-Saint Mary, Hollidaysburg	\$ 51,678	\$ 28,940	\$ (22,738)	\$ 23,505	106	671	15.80%	\$ 273
054-Saint Michael, Hollidaysburg	\$ 46,613	\$ 27,101	\$ (19,513)	\$ 22,801	112	720	15.56%	\$ 242

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Gifts/Pledges</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Donors</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Participation</u>	<u>Donor Average</u>
055-Saint Anne, Davidsville	\$ 14,781	\$ 2,560	\$ (12,221)	\$ 1,910	27	212	12.74%	\$ 95
057-Holy Family, Hooversville	\$ 11,624	\$ 2,775	\$ (8,849)	\$ 2,595	16	116	13.79%	\$ 173
058-Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon	\$ 31,100	\$ 14,155	\$ (16,945)	\$ 10,755	67	475	14.11%	\$ 211
059-Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown	\$ 36,109	\$ 33,170	\$ (2,939)	\$ 27,170	148	565	26.19%	\$ 224
066-Saint Patrick, Johnstown	\$ 27,024	\$ 17,765	\$ (9,259)	\$ 13,375	64	411	15.57%	\$ 278
069-Saint Michael, Johnstown	\$ 6,813	\$ 1,535	\$ (5,278)	\$ 1,385	15	113	13.27%	\$ 102
071-Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown	\$ 73,886	\$ 31,720	\$ (42,166)	\$ 24,695	150	738	20.33%	\$ 211
073-Saint Francis of Assisi, Johnstown	\$ 18,608	\$ 8,520	\$ (10,088)	\$ 7,450	63	288	21.88%	\$ 135
074-Visitation of the BVM, Johnstown	\$ 27,976	\$ 6,642	\$ (21,334)	\$ 5,751	47	314	14.97%	\$ 141
075-Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Johnstown	\$ 21,084	\$ 12,625	\$ (8,459)	\$ 9,525	81	385	21.04%	\$ 156
077-Saint Anne, Johnstown	\$ 7,602	\$ 2,515	\$ (5,087)	\$ 2,515	14	105	13.33%	\$ 180
078-Saint Clement, Johnstown	\$ 43,928	\$ 20,823	\$ (23,105)	\$ 15,398	126	517	24.37%	\$ 165
079-Saint Andrew, Johnstown	\$ 32,332	\$ 15,670	\$ (16,662)	\$ 12,370	60	520	11.54%	\$ 261
086-Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto	\$ 36,294	\$ 14,546	\$ (21,748)	\$ 11,726	65	427	15.22%	\$ 224
087-Saint Stephen, McConnellsburg	\$ 6,536	\$ 4,575	\$ (1,961)	\$ 4,200	18	61	29.51%	\$ 254
088-Saints Philip & James, Meyersdale	\$ 6,607	\$ 2,800	\$ (3,807)	\$ 2,500	19	83	22.89%	\$ 147
089-Saint Catherine of Siena, Mt. Union	\$ 8,558	\$ 6,415	\$ (2,143)	\$ 6,265	39	127	30.71%	\$ 164
090-Saint John Vianney, Mundy's Corner	\$ 17,969	\$ 4,770	\$ (13,199)	\$ 4,010	35	269	13.01%	\$ 136
091-Saint Mary, Nanty Glo	\$ 34,079	\$ 15,665	\$ (18,414)	\$ 11,925	81	442	18.33%	\$ 193
092-Saint John the Baptist, New Baltimore	\$ 14,365	\$ 6,020	\$ (8,345)	\$ 4,785	26	170	15.29%	\$ 232
093-Saint Gregory, MacDonalton	\$ 4,284	\$ 1,495	\$ (2,789)	\$ 1,235	9	65	13.85%	\$ 166
094-Saint Patrick, Newry	\$ 32,179	\$ 8,262	\$ (23,917)	\$ 7,562	48	395	12.15%	\$ 172
096-Saint Thomas More, Roaring Spring	\$ 12,537	\$ 8,165	\$ (4,372)	\$ 5,160	29	201	14.43%	\$ 282
097-Saint Nicholas, Nicktown	\$ 29,524	\$ 13,835	\$ (15,689)	\$ 12,360	73	411	17.76%	\$ 190
100-Saints Peter & Paul, Philipsburg	\$ 19,953	\$ 9,423	\$ (10,530)	\$ 7,823	74	249	29.72%	\$ 127
105-Saint Joseph, Renovo	\$ 12,588	\$ 3,045	\$ (9,543)	\$ 2,545	20	224	8.93%	\$ 152
107-Saint Mary, Orbisonia	\$ 4,949	\$ 2,250	\$ (2,699)	\$ 2,150	12	63	19.05%	\$ 188
109-Saint Peter, Somerset	\$ 57,543	\$ 45,255	\$ (12,288)	\$ 36,135	88	603	14.59%	\$ 514
116-Saint Augustine, St. Augustine	\$ 14,272	\$ 5,865	\$ (8,407)	\$ 5,590	39	199	19.60%	\$ 150
119-Saint Michael, St. Michael	\$ 23,811	\$ 12,680	\$ (11,131)	\$ 11,550	73	407	17.94%	\$ 174
120-Our Lady of Victory, State College	\$ 143,995	\$ 199,259	\$ 55,264	\$ 158,301	505	2,048	24.66%	\$ 395
121-Saint John, Summerhill	\$ 12,602	\$ 11,135	\$ (1,467)	\$ 9,770	64	206	31.07%	\$ 174

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122-Immaculate Conception, New Germany	\$ 14,646	\$ 11,825	\$ (2,821)	\$ 11,425	74	229	32.31%	\$ 160
123-Saint Aloysius, Cresson	\$ 25,024	\$ 18,284	\$ (6,740)	\$ 16,089	133	454	29.30%	\$ 137
126-Saint Matthew, Tyrone	\$ 32,145	\$ 34,247	\$ 2,102	\$ 30,047	109	321	33.96%	\$ 314
127-Saint Michael, West Salisbury	\$ 3,628	\$ 2,225	\$ (1,403)	\$ 1,385	8	37	21.62%	\$ 278
128-Saint Mary, Pocahontas	\$ 2,403	\$ 1,010	\$ (1,393)	\$ 810	9	29	31.03%	\$ 112
129-Saint Joseph, Williamsburg	\$ 6,462	\$ 1,235	\$ (5,227)	\$ 1,235	11	118	9.32%	\$ 112
130-Saint Bartholomew, Wilmore	\$ 10,410	\$ 4,740	\$ (5,670)	\$ 3,995	32	160	20.00%	\$ 148
132-Saints Cyril & Methodius, Windber	\$ 14,767	\$ 10,795	\$ (3,972)	\$ 8,720	28	208	13.46%	\$ 386
133-Saint Anthony of Padua, Windber	\$ 24,297	\$ 6,705	\$ (17,592)	\$ 5,778	60	399	15.04%	\$ 112
136-Good Shepherd, State College	\$ 54,629	\$ 35,375	\$ (19,254)	\$ 26,516	99	594	16.67%	\$ 357
139-Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly	\$ 22,860	\$ 18,280	\$ (4,580)	\$ 17,006	120	386	31.09%	\$ 152
141-Most Holy Trinity, South Fork	\$ 11,737	\$ 2,670	\$ (9,067)	\$ 2,245	31	183	16.94%	\$ 86
142-Our Lady of Fatima, Altoona	\$ 10,973	\$ 5,215	\$ (5,758)	\$ 4,090	28	150	18.67%	\$ 186
144-Saint Joan of Arc, Fallentimber	\$ 5,904	\$ 3,095	\$ (2,809)	\$ 2,115	14	73	19.18%	\$ 221
145-Queen of Peace, Patton	\$ 20,900	\$ 13,765	\$ (7,135)	\$ 11,215	61	289	21.11%	\$ 226
146-All Saints, Boswell	\$ 17,217	\$ 8,400	\$ (8,817)	\$ 7,290	41	271	15.13%	\$ 205
151-Our Lady, Queen of Angels, Central City	\$ 17,517	\$ 3,600	\$ (13,917)	\$ 3,220	20	272	7.35%	\$ 180
152-Prince of Peace, Northern Cambria	\$ 37,919	\$ 14,925	\$ (22,994)	\$ 11,250	108	574	18.82%	\$ 138
153-Saint Clare of Assisi, Johnstown	\$ 13,840	\$ 9,655	\$ (4,185)	\$ 8,630	63	279	22.58%	\$ 153
154-Saint Demetrius, Gallitzin	\$ 30,376	\$ 11,767	\$ (18,609)	\$ 11,467	77	334	23.05%	\$ 153
155-Saints Gregory & Barnabas, Johnstown	\$ 23,272	\$ 480	\$ (22,792)	\$ 480	5	395	1.27%	\$ 96
156-Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Windber	\$ 22,007	\$ 4,265	\$ (17,742)	\$ 3,690	49	407	12.04%	\$ 87
157-Queen of the Archangels, Clarence	\$ 13,475	\$ 5,185	\$ (8,290)	\$ 5,110	28	238	11.76%	\$ 185
158-Transfiguration, Conemaugh	\$ 16,191	\$ 7,285	\$ (8,906)	\$ 5,560	31	222	13.96%	\$ 235
159-Resurrection, Johnstown	\$ 40,114	\$ 10,262	\$ (29,852)	\$ 8,412	64	583	10.98%	\$ 160
160-Holy Spirit, Lock Haven	\$ 37,374	\$ 11,730	\$ (25,644)	\$ 9,785	55	617	8.91%	\$ 213
161-Holy Family, Portage	\$ 46,164	\$ 9,580	\$ (36,584)	\$ 8,580	69	788	8.76%	\$ 139
150-Diocese Unrestricted	\$ -	\$ 224	\$ 224	\$ 224	3	57	5.26%	\$ 75
Total	\$ 2,341,744	\$ 1,460,505	\$ (881,463)	\$ 1,191,764	6,307	33,594	18.77%	\$ 232

Target Exceeded by amount "Pledged"

Target Exceeded by amount "Received" - All offertory received above Target will be refunded to Parish



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Parish Life Office:
Christian Initiation
925 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
(814) 317-2672; 693-9605 Ext 2672
Facsimile: (814) 696-9516
jthompson@dioceseaj.org

July 15, 2017

Dear Pastors, Administrators, and Directors/Coordinators of the Rite of Christian Initiation Processes

I sincerely hope that you have been able to enjoy some of these summer days. I want to Thank you for your commitment to the Christian Initiation ministry of the Church.

I have witnessed myself, as some of you have too, that God continues to stir the hearts of men, women, youth, and entire families, to an increase of faith that guides them in making a decision to explore the Catholic Church. It is through the lived faith and example of the members that the Body of Christ, the Church, continues to grow. It is through the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, that we are immersed in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ and become full, conscious, and active participants in the life of the Church.

Those in Christian Initiation ministry through prayer, exploration and integration of scripture, catechesis, and the celebration of rituals, have been forming "Missionary Disciples" for over fifty years. It is imperative for the growth of our local Church communities that when "Inquirers" approach our parishes we are always ready to welcome them and help them enter fully into the life of the Catholic Church through the universal Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA).

Thoughts to ponder: What is your experience? Do you have inquiry meetings over the summer? How have they worked for you? Or, if you haven't done anything over the summer, do you have a nice simple and welcoming, but informative leaflet visible in the parish gathering space or vestibule throughout the summer weeks? What first step do you imagine your parish could take to begin?

The two articles from TeamRCIA may help you and your parish team with possibilities for informal inquiry time in the remaining summer weeks. If you already offer on-going inquiry in your parish maybe a few of the examples from the lists will give you a few new creative ideas. You may find more fruits from this approach than the "talk to me again in a few months." If your team is still tired from the Easter Season, ask for one or two volunteers to maybe host something small and informal in their home. A getting to know you time could be at the parish rectory or other adult space at the parish like an outside porch or patio.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Catechumenate Team Ministry Course

The ultimate goal for all parishes (individual, clustered, and newly merged) is to have at least two individuals who are practicing, fully initiated Catholics, who are catechized and have knowledge and experience in implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is not solely “the priest’s job” to make this happen. There must be collaboration between the clergy and the laity to “pass on the faith,” and “grow the Church.”

Parishes with new RCIA Team Members, and veteran members who need updating or want to delve more into the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, should plan to send at least two adults to the **Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Catechumenate Team Ministry Course, beginning on September 7, 2017.** Sessions are scheduled for Thursday evenings at the Family Life Office in Lilly this year. It is easily accessible from Route 53 and Route 22. It is from 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM. The fee is \$75.00 for all books and supplies. **Site location:** If you have a committed parish group of at least four people, then a change of location may be considered, but we would need to know by August 15th. The instructors and facilitators will be Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, (Parts II and III) and myself, (Parts I and IV).

Please call Marybeth Heinze at 814-814-361-2000 or Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672 if you have a parishioner or small group you recommend, who are active, or who may be joining your team. Participants must have at least a basic knowledge of the Christian Scriptures.

There is a more comprehensive explanation of the Catechumenate Team Ministry Course on the description page. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from the diocesan website: www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry, or www.dioceseaj.org/christian-initiation

Catholic Life Conference

The bi-annual Catholic Life Conference is being held this fall on Saturday, September 30th in the Bertshci Center at Mount Aloysius College. This day is a prayerful opportunity for Catholics to share with others from various parishes in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

The day begins at 9:00 AM with Bishop Mark as Presider of the celebration of Eucharist and will continue with coffee/tea and juice, breakfast items and exhibit time. **Bishop Mark will be the keynote speaker, speaking on Magnanimity**, followed by three workshop opportunities before and after lunch. Please contact Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672, jthompson@dioceseaj.org; or Francine Swope at the Parish Life Office at 814-693-9605, Ext 2646 for more preliminary information.

Promotional materials and registration forms will be sent in August, but please watch the website too.

Parish Visits

I am always available to come to individual parishes as needed for questions and conversations with parish teams. You can reach me at 814-317-2672 or by email at jthompson@dioceseaj.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ and in prayer,

Jeanne Thompson, Coordinator

20 ways to catechize this summer — even if you don't have a year-round catechumenate



If someone asks you about becoming Catholic this summer don't tell them to come back in September. You can start catechizing them right away, even if you don't have a year-round process. Here are 20 ideas to get you started.

One, Two, Three, GO!

- Invite the inquirer to Sunday Mass; ask a parishioner to sit with them
- Introduce the inquirer to a Neophyte, their excitement is “catching”
- Ask a family to invite the inquirer to an informal dinner or a summer barbecue in the parishioners' home
- Find a parishioner to accompany the inquirer to the parish festival or other summer event
- Ask a member of an outreach ministry to invite the inquirer at their next event
- Introduce the inquirer to members of the parish music ministry
- Ask someone who goes to adoration or holy hour to invite the inquirer along next time
- Introduce the inquirer to a few parishioners after Mass and follow up with an e-mail to other members of the parish asking them to pray for the inquirer and let the inquirer know he is being prayed for
- Arrange for a 15-minute meeting of the inquirer with the pastor; ask a member of the RCIA team to be present at the meeting
- Mail a birthday, anniversary, or “Happy Summer!” card to the inquirer at their home
- If your inquirer is named after a saint, you may want to find information for them about the saint and talk about how saints are named by the Church
- If your inquirer is a parent, arrange for child care so they can have a “date night” with his or her spouse
- Teach your inquirer how to say the “Glory be...”; ask them to say it every morning and night
- Give your inquirer a prayer book with the Sunday readings in it (e.g. *Give Us This Day, At Home With the Word*)

- Introduce your inquirer to someone who went through the catechumenate process recently and then became a sponsor
- Catechize the parish to say “Welcome” to any new faces at Mass. They may be an inquirer who is shy and needs a personal invitation.
- Ask someone who goes to weekday Mass to invite the inquirer along and share why they attend more than only on Sunday
- Give the inquirer a tour of the parish facilities; and explain the major symbols in the worship space; try to highlight the sanctuary light and the tabernacle and statues and images-of the Blessed Mother
- Ask an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to explain their ministry to the inquirer
- Ask someone who regularly lights votive candles to explain what it means to them and the symbolism of the action for the Church

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Your possible first small step toward a year-round RCIA process



If you want to move to a year-round catechumenate but you think it will be too much work or you don't know where to start, start with baby steps. You don't have to do everything all at once. For example, I was at Mass at a parish outside my diocese on a July Sunday. At the end of Mass, during the announcements, the presider said something like this:

“If you or someone you know is curious about becoming Catholic, I'd like to invite you to come explore your questions. We are currently forming an inquiry group to discuss and answer any questions you might have about what Catholics are all about. It's a very informal group, and there is no obligation. If you'd like to join us, I'll be in the back after Mass and I can tell you more about it.”

This announcement could also be used as a modified bulletin insert.

A lot is happening in this RCIA announcement

This short, simple announcement does a lot of things. It tells seekers (**inquirers**) that you want to connect with them. It keeps things casual and assures them they don't have to sign up or register just to find out *if* they might want to become Catholic. It solves the problem of telling seekers they have to come back in September "when RCIA starts." And it alerts the regular parishioners that the parish is actively seeking new members. And notice that they never used the term "RCIA"!

You can have an effective inquiry process with as few as one or two meetings a month over the summer.

You can have an effective inquiry process with as few as one or two meetings a month over the summer. That's three or five meetings. The most work you may have to do is put on a pot of coffee, or serve a glass of iced-tea and invite another parishioner who may be a potential sponsor.

Lastly: Every parish should always have a simple and informative leaflet visible for the public in the Church, e.g. vestibule or gathering space, with specific contact information, for "drop-in visitors" when the Church is open during the week outside of Mass times. (There are a few samples on the diocesan website. Please contact Jeanne Thompson for a Microsoft Word version that can be edited.)

One more step

Well, there is one more thing you have to do. You have to be prepared to share your own faith story. We should be always be ready to do that anyway, so it really isn't extra preparation. But I find that lots of Catholics, even active RCIA team members, have a difficult time saying why they believe what they believe. We tend to get bogged down in Catholic jargon that often doesn't make sense to seekers. I would encourage you to spend some time in prayer and think about when your faith was most tested and when your faith saved you. Think about where you might be today if you didn't have faith. Write down some thoughts about that, and see if you can come up with a one to two minute story.

Then, during your inquiry meetings, answer all the questions the seekers have as best you can. If there is something you can't answer, promise to find out and get back to the seeker with an answer. And finally, if no one asks you why you are a Catholic, ask them if they would like to know. Then share your story.

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Catechumenate Team Ministry

The 2017-2018 RCIA Catechumenate Team Ministry Course will be held at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Family Life Office, Lilly, PA.

Course Description: The course is an overview and exploration of the application of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. The RCIA is the official rite of the Catholic Church for Adults desiring to be baptized and for the already baptized candidates who are asking to become full members of the Catholic Church. The comprehensive course content is presented in an adult environment and is a combination of experiential and traditional learning styles.

We are hoping to reach the goal for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown to have at least 2 people from every parish prepared to assist the pastor/administrator to lead and facilitate the RCIA process when men, women, and youth, after God has led them to recognition of faith, seek to become members of the Catholic Church.

The course is presented within the format of the four-part phase and period process of the Rite itself which can seem daunting to implement as it is over 320 pages in its entirety. Each of the four parts consists of four sessions for each RCIA phase. The sessions are 2 ½ hours long and **are not** scheduled during Advent, Christmas or Lent.

Requirements for Christian Initiation Certification: Adults must attend all course sessions and two annual workshops that are named by the Office of Christian Initiation. Make-up work will be discussed.

1. Understanding the Annulment Process

2. Attendance at one of the following two listed:

A. Bi-annual Catholic Life Conference Day or Bi-annual Catholic Life Conference Day of Prayer

B. Spring workshop normally on a category of Part II: Rites of Particular Circumstances of the RCIA. TBA

Additional Course Requirements: participants must keep a reflective journal, complete a personal one-page reflection after each Part, lead at least two Lectionary based scripture studies for development of methods for parish RCIA processes; complete the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Lay Ecclesial Ministry and Adult Enrichment Program evaluation forms; develop and present a practicum.

The fee is \$75.00 per person which covers all materials for the 16 week course. Contact for information: mheinze@dioceseaj.org, 814-361-2000; AND jthompson@dioceseaj.org, at 814-317-2672

Registration forms are posted on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown website under Parish Life Office: Lay Ecclesial Ministry: www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry or the Parish Life

Office: [www.dioceseaj.org/Christian Initiation](http://www.dioceseaj.org/Christian%20Initiation) site. **Forms must be completed and returned with the fee no later than August 20, 2017.** Mail to: Lay Ecclesial Ministry/Adult Enrichment Office: St. Patrick School, 925 Park Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15902, Attn: Marybeth Heinze.

The Invitation to Attend is for:

- Adults who have completed the first 2 years of Lay Ecclesial Ministry coursework and need a Third Year Track course, and asked by their pastor or administrator, to become new directors and coordinators of a parish Christian Initiation process.
- Directors/Coordinators (who have been designated by their pastor/administrator), and Team Members who have been approved by the pastor/administrator, and have been active in ministry for at least one year. They must have knowledge of the foundation and development of the Christian Scriptures.
- Men and women who have expressed a desire to become active in Christian Initiation Ministry after serving in parish for at least two years in a Catechetical Ministry, and have completed Basic Catechist Formation.
- Clergy who did not have a concentrated preparation for implementing the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, i.e., the celebration of the required minor rituals.
- Men who are in preliminary discernment to explore diaconate formation

**DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY AND ADULT ENRICHMENT
2017-2018 Calendar Year**

RCIA CATECHUMENATE TEAM MINISTRY

FOUR PERIOD PHASE CONTENT: Four Parts: 4 weekly sessions, 2 workshops, 1 practicum:
Total: 75 hours

Sessions are 2.5 hrs. 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM and are in 4 week groupings (Parts I, II, III and IV)
Sessions are **not** scheduled during the Church seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Lent. All sessions are on Thursday evenings. This year we will be holding classes at the Family Life Office in Lilly, PA.

2017 Part I. Pre-Catechumenate (also called Period of Evangelization): September 7, 14, 21 and 28

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.”

2017 Part II. Catechumenate: October 12, 19, 26 and November 2

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.

2018 Part III. Purification and Enlightenment: January 11, 18, 25 and February 1

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.

2018 Part IV. Mystagogy: April 5, 12, 19 and 26 (must be held during Easter Season)

Topics: Definitions of Neophyte and Mystagogy; prayer reflection on Holy Week to Easter Sunday; catechesis for Easter Season; study of Resurrection narratives; on going formation – doctrinal topics, prayer tools, Sacrament of Penance. Practicum projects are due.

Wrap-up: All must participate in a Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown generated written reflection, evaluation, and a personal closing interview with the Coordinator of Christian Initiation.

FOR ALL COURSE MEMBERS: WORKSHOP SAVE THE DATES

Workshops: 1 and 2 are necessary for RCIA certification, and can also be counted towards CEU credit hours for Lay Ecclesial Ministry.

1. **CATHOLIC LIFE CONFERENCE** (a bi-annual gathering)
Saturday, September 30, 2017 at Mt. Aloysius College, 9AM – 3:00 PM,
Three break-out sessions will be offered for RCIA (course participants must attend at least one within the conference day)
The conference is also open to all people in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

2. **UNDERSTANDING THE ANNULMENT PROCESS**
Saturday, November 4, 2017 at St. Michael the Archangel School Cafeteria, Loretto
The workshop is also open to all RCIA leaders and team members.

3. **Spring Workshop TBA.**



PARISH LIFE OFFICE: CHRISTIAN INITIATION
FALL WORKSHOP: UNDERSTANDING THE ANNULMENT PROCESS

Saturday, November 4, 2017

PRESENTER: Very Rev. John Byrnes JV, JCL; Rector, Basilica of St. Michael of the Archangel
TOPIC: Explanation and walk-through of the process of annulment within the Catholic Church Code of Canon Law; Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Tribunal policies.

LOCATION: Saint Michael of the Archangel School Cafeteria, 301 Elizabeth Street, Loretto, PA

COST: \$15.00 per person; \$12.00 per person with a parish group of 3 or more

SCHEDULE: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Begins with Continental Breakfast; Presentations and Lunch to follow; Closes with Discussion, Q and A.

REGISTRATION: Deadline: Friday, October 27, 2017

You may Email: jthompson@dioceseaj.org or Fax: 814-696-9516 the form no later than Monday, October 30, with the fee to follow. Please return the form and fee if sending by regular mail.

PARISH LIFE OFFICE: CHRISTIAN INITIATION
FALL WORKSHOP: UNDERSTANDING THE ANNULMENT PROCESS

November 4, 2017 at Saint Michael School, Loretto, PA

Parish: _____
Name Mailing Address Zip Code

Contact person: _____

Phone (best number): _____

Email: _____

Additional persons:

Name: _____ **Phone#** _____

Email: _____

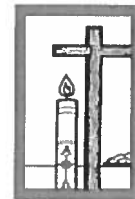
Name: _____ **Phone#** _____

Email: _____

Fee sent: # _____ **@\$15.00;** # _____ **@ \$12.00** (3 or more) **Total:** _____

Checks made payable to: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Christian Initiation
Mail to: 925 South Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
2018 LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS



**RITE OF ELECTION AND ENROLLMENT OF NAMES OF
CATECHUMENS AND THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF
CANDIDATES: First Sunday of Lent: February 18, 2018**

2:00 PM - Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton Street, Johnstown
(Cambria, Fulton, and Somerset County parishes/campus ministry)

**7:00 PM - Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, One Cathedral Square,
Altoona** (Bedford, Blair, Centre, Clinton and Huntingdon County
parishes/campus ministry)

PALM SUNDAY RETREATS AND ANOINTING SERVICE:

Centre/Clinton Counties: Saturday, March 24, 2018 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Our Lady of Victory Church (Social Hall)
820 Westerly Parkway, State College

Prayer/Anointing Service at 10:45 AM, Bishop Mark Bartchak, Presider

Cambria/Somerset Counties: Sunday, March 25, 2018 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Begins with Prayer/Anointing Service at 1:30 PM, Bishop Mark Bartchak, Presider
in St. John Gualbert Cathedral (Clinton Street)
Continuing at: St. John Gualbert Parish Activity Center
Corner of Railroad and Adams Street, Johnstown

Blair/Bedford/Huntingdon/Fulton counties: Sunday, March 25, 2018
2:00 PM - 6:30 PM at Saint Catherine of Siena Church, 308 Old Route 22,
Duncansville

Prayer/Anointing Service at 4:45 PM Bishop Mark Bartchak, Presider

*Anyone who cannot attend the retreats at the scheduled sites are always welcome to attend at another site.
When you RSVP please highlight the location on your registration form.*

NEOPHYTE MASS OF THANKSGIVING: Saturday, April 28, 2018, 5:00 PM
at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, One Cathedral Square, Altoona
Main Celebrant: Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak

*The Neophyte Mass is scheduled on the Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Easter.
Bishop Mark has reserved this evening to celebrate a full Eucharistic Liturgy with the Neophytes
(the newest members) of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown,
and their families along with their Sponsors and their families, and parish teams.*

*All are invited and encouraged and should plan to participate in this special celebration.
There is a dinner served immediately following Mass in the Cathedral Hall.*

2017-2018 Christian Initiation Parish Director Coordinator Update

Pastors, Administrators, Directors and Coordinators should complete this form with any new information since the spring of 2017. If you want a second person to receive mailings in addition to yourself please make that clear on the form. If you are no longer the person to receive mail please contact me at the Parish Life Office: 814-317-2672 in order to update the data base.

Please send this form by mail or fax (814) 696-9516 to:
Jeanne Thompson, Parish Life Office,
Director of Christian Initiation
925 South Logan Blvd.
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

2017 Update Form: Parish Directors of Christian Initiation

Please check one:

Keep everything the same Update information Add the following name(s)

Parish Name: _____

Name of Pastor/Administrator: _____

Complete mailing Address of parish _____
P.O. Box/ Street/Route

Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell #: _____

Fax # _____ Email: _____

Name of Director/Coordinator: _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____
P.O. Box/ Street/Route address (include Apt. #'s)

Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (best number) (H) (W) (Cell) _____

Fax#: _____ Email: _____

.....
Delete the following name(s) from the mailing list:

I am including this article as many Catholics have seen this presented by the News Media as a definite ban on hosts for people who cannot consume food products with gluten.

Jeanne Thompson



POPE AND GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION HOSTS

Pope Francis said gluten-free bread is a no-go when it comes to communion

USA Today Network Sean Rossman, USA TODAY Published 11:04 a.m. ET July 11, 2017 | Updated 2:26 p.m. ET July 11, 2017

The Vatican refuses to go gluten-free at c...



In a new set of rules, the Vatican outlawed gluten-free bread for Holy Communion. Sean Dowling (@seandowlingtv) has more. Buzz60

Pope Francis during the communion at the Easter Vigil mass in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in April.(Photo: Claudio Peri, EPA)

The expanding market for wine and bread used as part of Catholic masses prompted Pope Francis to remind priests and bishops across the world that gluten-free bread is a no-go when it comes to communion.

The pope issued a letter in mid-June saying all bread used during communion must have at least some gluten, a naturally occurring protein in wheat, which is common in breads, pastas, cakes and cereals. "Hosts that are completely gluten-free are invalid matter for the celebration of the Eucharist," wrote Cardinal Robert Sarah on behalf of the pope.

Low-gluten hosts, he added, can be used, "provided they contain a sufficient amount of gluten to obtain the confection of bread without the addition of foreign materials and without the use of procedures that would alter the nature of bread."

NOTE: Many of the parishes in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are already using the approved low-gluten hosts. Please talk to your fellow clergy where they purchased them if you do not already have some.s

Church rules dictate bread used for communion must be recently made, be unleavened and made purely of wheat. Any other additions — including fruit, sugar or honey — make the bread unusable.

The directive was a reiteration of a 2003 missive from the church about the legitimacy of holy wine and bread. At Catholic masses, congregants eat bread and drink wine, which signify the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

When and where someone was born could be an indicator to if they have celiac disease. Keleigh Nealon (@keleighnealon) has the story. Buzz60

Apart from the gluten rules, the church allows for bread and wine made with genetically modified organisms and mustum, a type of grape juice.

Sarah said he issued the letter to help churches validate the bread and wine they're using.

"Until recently it was certain religious communities who took care of baking the bread and making the wine for the celebration of the Eucharist," the letter said. "Today, however, these materials are also sold in supermarkets and other stores and even over the Internet." The church's stance comes as more people adopt a gluten-free diet and its promised health benefits.

A national study in 2016 found about 2.7 million Americans avoid gluten, although just 1.8 million had celiac disease. People with celiac disease can endure damage to their small intestines if they eat gluten, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Yet the merits of a gluten-free diet have been challenged by researchers, some of which have chalked it up to a passing fad. Lynn Wagner, an integrative medicine specialist at BayCare Clinic in Wisconsin, said people who choose gluten-free foods think they're being healthy, while reality suggests gluten-free foods offer little to no nutritious value.

Follow Sean Rossman on Twitter: [@SeanRossman](https://twitter.com/SeanRossman)



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

2017 Wedding Anniversary Celebration **UPDATE**

Family Life Office
5379 Portage St.
Lilly, PA 15938
Telephone (814) 886-5551
Facsimile (814) 886-7697
familylife@dioceseaj.org
www.dioceseaj.org

July 18, 2017

TO: Clergy of the Diocese

RE: **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgies**

for couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2017

ALTOONA Liturgy—Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament—Sunday, September 10—2:00 p.m.

JOHNSTOWN Liturgy—Saint John Gualbert Cathedral—Sunday, September 17—2:00 p.m.

Couples and their families may attend either location. It is not necessary that they live in a particular geographical area. Indicate the celebration they will attend on the reservation form included with this letter.

WHO MAY ATTEND

Couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60+ wedding anniversary in 2017 and their families.

Couples (including interfaith marriages) must be in good standing and be certified by their parish priest. (*See reservation form*)

COST

NO CHARGE due to expenses being covered by a generous donor.

PRIEST AND DEACONS INVITED

Bishop Mark will be the Celebrant and Homilist. Priests who wish to concelebrate have permission to trinate. Priests and deacons should wear the Diocesan Chasuble.

RESERVATIONS (*Forms enclosed*)

Family Life Office Reservation deadling (*early deadlines necessary in order to prepare invitations, certificates, and mass book*)

For Johnstown and Altoona,
no later than **Thursday, Aug. 24**

Type or print all reservations. Please be careful of spelling. Use correct spelling the couple desires, especially with family names that may have changed through the years.

Invitations will be mailed to each couple and certificates will be prepared with the Bishop's signature. The purpose of the Liturgies is to bring couples together to celebrate their anniversaries, therefore **couples cannot receive a certificate from the Bishop unless they attend one of the celebrations.**

You can recommend a couple as a reader, gift bearer, or altar dresser. Indicate names and phone number on their reservation form. Our office will contact the couple if chosen so please do not ask them ahead of time.

1—5—10—25—40—50—55—60+ WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RESERVATION

Please print or type names as they will appear on the certificate

Husband's First Name _____ Wife's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Present Parish Name and Town _____

Marriage Date _____ Anniversary: (circle one) 1 5 10 25 40 50 55 60 6 _____

Will attend in: (circle one location)
Altoona 9/10/17 Johnstown 9/17/17

I certify that the above-mentioned couple belongs to this parish and are in good standing.

Mail form to:
Family Life Office, 5379 Portage St., Lilly, PA 15938

Parish Priest _____

I recommend this couple as _____ readers _____ gift bearers _____ altar dressers _____ Couple's phone number _____
(If chosen by our office we will ask this couple to help at the liturgy. Please do not ask them ahead of time.)

1—5—10—25—40—50—55—60+ WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RESERVATION

Please print or type names as they will appear on the certificate

Husband's First Name _____ Wife's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Present Parish Name and Town _____

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Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

2017 Wedding Anniversary Celebration Information

Family Life Office
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Telephone (814) 886-5551
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www.dioceseaj.org

July 18, 2017

TO: Clergy of the Diocese

RE: Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgies

for couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2017

(Please note that 5th and 10th Wedding Anniversaries are again being added to the celebration because of requests we have had at our office to include couples who want to celebrate before 25 years. We feel if we have requests there is a need to include these couples.)

BULLETIN/PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Publish the weekends of August 6, 13, 20

(Please publish all three weekends so couples who may be on vacation will see the announcement)

**All
areas
of the
Diocese**

Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, and 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2017 (and their families) to attend the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy**. Couples may attend Sunday, Sept. 10 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, Sept. 17 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Punch and cookies will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. **Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Tuesday Aug. 22.**