



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Parish Life Office

Christian Initiation

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MEMO

TO: Pastors, Administrators, Directors and Coordinators of RCIA

FROM: Jeanne Thompson, Ministerial Coordinator

RE: RCIA Announcements and Information

DATE: June 4, 2018

CALENDARS: It's that Save-A-Date time of year again!

The 2018-2019 Catechetical and Liturgical annual calendar is provided for directors, team members and the Elect and Candidates. Please copy as many as needed so everyone can check their personal calendars and plan to attend as many events and catechetical offerings as possible. **Please do not wait to give this to every person in your group.** People must have schedules for themselves and advance notification time for employers.

- Catechumenate Team Ministry Course for Christian Initiation Certification
This course is sponsored by the Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry in collaboration with the Liturgy and Tribunal Offices, will be held at Saint Michael Parish, St. Michael this year. This course is good for beginners in the ministry as well as veteran directors, coordinators, team members; adults who completed Year I and Year II of Lay Ecclesial Ministry, and need a 3rd Year Track and hours for C.E.U; possible diaconate candidates. Registrations are processed by the Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministries Office. The \$75 fee covers all printed materials.
- Arise in Christ information has been sent as I have received it. It is wonderful that many in the Christian Initiation Ministry have entered into this diocesan wide evangelization life-giving gift for present and future Church. All schedules for sessions, trainings and RSVP contacts and deadlines are on the **Diocesan Website**.
- The annual fall workshop: Understanding the Annulment Process will be on Sat, November 3, 2018 at Saint Michael Elementary School, Loretto, from 8:30AM – 1:30PM. Very Rev. John D. Byrnes JV, JCL, will be the presenter. The \$15.00 fee (\$12 each for groups of 3 or more). Repeat attendees are always welcome. This workshop is a requirement for certification and normally not for the general public but for those in RCIA, Marriage Preparation, DRE's and Catechists.

DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: Parish Life Office: Christian Initiation Coordinator: Jeanne Thompson 814-693-9605, Ext 2672; or direct 814-317-2672; jthompson@dioceseaj.org. Secretary Dotty Caminiti 814-693-9605, Ext 2647 or direct to 814-317-2647; dcaminiti@dioceseaj.org **Address:** 925 South Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

DIOCESAN WEBSITE: <http://www.dioceseaj.org>. Diocesan News and Calendars for special events, adult catechetical and formation offerings, and registration for upcoming events can be downloaded from this invaluable communication tool. The Christian Initiation site can be found under Ministries.

○ **GOING GREEN**

We all need to conserve our budgets and it is of utmost importance that the Parish Life: Christian Initiation Office have accurate email addresses to transition to paperless mailings. I do understand that some of you still do not have the capacity to print and copy materials and so will continue to receive the three mailings per year. **Look for the Spring-Summer mail at the end of this week!**

- **PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION:** We are working to complete an updated *Christian Initiation Directory* for early September. Please complete the form for updates as soon as you can. You can also call Dotty with your information, send it by fax or by email. If you have an unlisted phone number and do not want it included for general use please make a note of that on the form.

ON THE LIBRARY SHELF: Please go to the <http://teamrcia.com> and read the articles and publications by TeamRCIA members Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal. The most recent article, “*The Parish is Your Curriculum*” written by Diana (free to copy) and full publication “*Field Hospital Catechesis: The Core Content for RCIA Formation*,” authored by Nick Wagner (must be purchased,) are ones that every pastor, administrator, Christian Initiation director and team member should be reading, reflecting on, then sharing with all parishioners in ministry especially members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

On the website and in the upcoming mailing there will be a list of parish resources. Samples are available for preview at the Christian Initiation Office. These resources are good for all stages of Christian Initiation; ongoing formation, and sacrament preparation for children, teens and adults.

A SPECIAL SUMMER NOTE! Hopefully our weather will coincide with the calendar beginning...

I receive many phone calls and email from men and women who have made a visit to our churches “to see the building” during the summer months. The truth is that many of these are men and women are seeking a relationship with God. They have felt God’s grace stirring in their hearts but have not been able to name this genuine desire. I’m sure many of us have heard this expression, “When I went into the Church I felt like I was home.” These *Seekers* often have genuine questions, and want to know who they can speak to about their experience, and how they can become a member of the Catholic Church.

I welcome these men and women over the phone to initiate that very first stage of a person’s relationship with us. Then I contact a local parish director so they can set up a personal “getting- to – know-you time.” It is my ministry and my pleasure to evangelize as one who has been anointed in the mission of Jesus as priest, prophet, and king through baptism, and to build up the Body of Christ, as we are all commissioned to do.

Every Catholic parish should have one or two people who can share their faith with a Seeker *or* *Inquirer* at any time during the year. The RCIA team people don’t have to be the only “official ones.”

But, how can we grow the Church if the seeds are invisible? There should always be current parish bulletins, a pamphlet, informational leaflet, or postcard with contact person information for the guests and Inquirers in a visible place in the Church. For your convenience I will be sending samples and can assist you with creating a ready to print copy.