

**DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**  
**LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Track and ADULT ENRICHMENT**  
**For Altoona-Johnstown Basic and Advanced Certification**

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

**The 2018-2019 RCIA Catechumenate Team Ministry Course**

**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, 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. *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* Part II: Rites of Particular Circumstance, (1/2 day normally in spring.)

**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](mailto:mheinze@dioceseaj.org), 814-361-2000; AND [jthompson@dioceseaj.org](mailto: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](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry) or the Parish Life Office: [www.dioceseaj.org/Christian-Initiation](http://www.dioceseaj.org/Christian-Initiation) site. **Forms must be completed and returned with the fee no later than August 20, 2018.** 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; asked by their pastor or administrator, to become new directors and coordinators of a parish Christian Initiation process. (The possibility may occur from attending the course)
- Directors/Coordinators (who have been designated by their pastor/administrator), and Team Members who have been approved by the pastor/administrator, and been active in ministry for at least one year.
- Men and women who have expressed a desire to become active in Christian Initiation Ministry (it would be helpful if they have served for at least two years in a Catechetical Ministry/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.

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**LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY AND ADULT ENRICHMENT**

*2018-2019 Calendar Year*

**RCIA CATECHUMENATE TEAM MINISTRY**

**FOUR PERIOD PHASE CONTENT:** Four Parts: 4 weekly sessions, 2 workshops, 1 practicum:  
Total: 75 hours. **Classes will be held at Saint Michael Parish, St. Michael, PA**

**Sessions are from 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 and are held in Saint Michael Parish, St. Michael, PA)

**2018 Part I. Pre-Catechumenate (also called Period of Evangelization): September 6, 13, 20, 27**

**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.”

**2018 Part II. Catechumenate: October 4, 11, 18, 25**

**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 and content material essential for development of parish Catechetical Sessions.

**2019 Part III. Purification and Enlightenment: January 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Topics:** Catechesis and formation of RCIA ritual action; proper use of symbol and song: reflection and study of discussion of the Minor Rites and presentations for the non-baptized seeking the Sacraments of Initiation, and those baptized seeking Full Communion in the Catholic Church, completion of the initiation; catechesis on the liturgies of Holy Week (beginning with Passion Sunday), with particular focus on the Holy Triduum and the Easter Vigil.

**2019 Part IV. Mystagogy: April 25, and May 2, 9, 16** (must be held during Easter Season)

**Topics:** The Neophyte mystery of Mystagogy; prayer reflection on Holy Week to Easter Sunday; catechesis for Easter Season and beyond; 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 the Lay Ministry Office.

**FOR ALL COURSE MEMBERS: WORKSHOP SAVE THE DATES**

**Workshops: Necessary for RCIA certification, and can also be counted towards CEU credit hours for Lay Ecclesial Ministry.**

**1. UNDERSTANDING THE ANNULMENT PROCESS**

**Saturday, November 4, 2018 at St. Michael the Archangel School Cafeteria, Loretto**

**Facilitator:** Very Rev. John Byrnes, JV, JCL and Rector of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto.

The workshop is also open to all those in parish ministry; lay ministry; RCIA leaders and team members, “The content is such that the fundamental catechetical repetition of the content is very good and necessary for all candidates.” Attendance is encouraged for those in Marriage Preparation also.

**2. 2019 Spring Workshop TBA.**