

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

**2019-2020 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Catechumenate Team Ministry**

**Location:** the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Seton Suite, One Cathedral Square, Altoona  
**Day and Time:** Thursday, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**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 2 ½ hours 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.

**2019-2020 Workshops**

1. *Understanding the Annulment Process*, Saturday November 9, 2019 at St. Michael School, Loretto (this workshop is scheduled annually for those who are unable to attend in the same year)
  2. *Connecting Families to Sacramental Ministries for Children and Youth*, Saturday, September 7, 2019 at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson
- Workshop registration forms will be posted by August 5, 2019

**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 Deacons who already have the Rite book.)

**Contact** Jeanne Thompson for more information: [jthompson@dioceseaj.org](mailto:jthompson@dioceseaj.org), at 814-317-2672

**Registration forms** for class are posted on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Christian Initiation website: [www.dioceseaj.org/ChristianInitiation](http://www.dioceseaj.org/ChristianInitiation) and Lay Ecclesial Ministry: [www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry) and the **forms must be completed and returned with the fee no later than August 23, 2019**

to: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Parish Life Office  
2713 W. Chestnut Avenue,  
Altoona, PA 16601

Attn: Jeanne Thompson

**This course is for Adults who:**

- 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,
- are Clergy (priests and deacons) who did not have a concentrated preparation for implementing the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, and/or want a refresher.
- Deacons who need Ongoing Formation hours.

**UDIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**  
**LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY AND ADULT ENRICHMENT**  
*2019-2020 Calendar Year*

**RCIA CATECHUMENATE TEAM MINISTRY**

**FOUR PERIOD PHASE CONTENT and DATES**

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

**Sessions:** 2.5 hrs. 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM; Thursday evenings

**Location:** Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona (specific meeting area to be announced)

**2019 Part I. Pre-Catechumenate (also called Period of Evangelization):**

**September 12, 19, 26 and Oct 3**

**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.”

**2019 Part II. Catechumenate: October 17, 24, 31, November 7**

**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.

**2020 Part III. Purification and Enlightenment: January 16, 23, 30, February 6**

**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.

**2020 Part IV. Mystagogy: April 16, 23, 30 and May 7** (held during Easter Season)

**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.

**WORKSHOP SAVE THE DATES**

**Workshops necessary for RCIA certification.** Hours can be counted separately towards CEU credit hours for those who have Lay Ecclesial Ministry and Master Catechist Certifications (11 hours total)

**2019-2020 Workshops**

1. *Understanding the Annulment Process*, Saturday November 9, 2019 at St. Michael School, Loretto (this workshop is scheduled annually for those who are unable to attend in the same year) 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM (waived for Deacons for certification)
2. *Connecting Families to Sacramental Ministries for Children and Youth*, Saturday, September 7, 2019 at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM