

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

**2020-2021 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Catechumenate Team Ministry**

**Location:** Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Street, Altoona PA 16601 **Time:** 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM, Thursday evenings.

**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.

**2020 -2021 Workshops**

1. Understanding the Annulment Process, Saturday, November 7, 2020 at St. Michael School, Loretto (this workshop is scheduled annually for those who are unable to attend in the same year)
2. in planning stages: Whole Family Catechesis, Finalized plans forms will be posted by August.

**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.

**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/Christian Initiation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry](http://www.dioceseaj.org/Christian%20Initiation%20and%20Lay%20Ecclesial%20Ministry): [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 28, 2020**

to: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown,  
Parish Life Office: Christian Initiation  
2713 W. Chestnut Avenue,  
Altoona, PA 16601-1720

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*.

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*2020-2021 Calendar Year*

**THIRD YEAR TRACK: RCIA CATECHUMENATE TEAM MINISTRY**

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**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

**Part I and IV:** Jeanne Thompson, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. *Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Street, Altoona PA 16601*

**Parts II and III:** Rev. Brian Saylor, *St Rose of Lima, 5514 Roselawn Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602*

**2020 Part I. Pre-Catechumenate (also called Period of Evangelization):**

**September 10, 17, 24 and Oct 1**

**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.”

**2020 Part II. Catechumenate: October 8, 15, 22, 29**

**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.

**2021 Part III. Purification and Enlightenment: January 14, 21, 28, February 4**

**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.

**2021 Part IV. Mystagogy: April 8, 15, 22, 29** (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.