

## Catechists receive a rewarding teaching experience through God

Teaching religious education deepens your closeness to God. Watch the children grow, learn, and share their love of God with you! And know you are a part of bringing them closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.... *the best feeling in the world!*

Be a part of your own child's religious journey and become a Catechist and you will receive free tuition for one child in your family for the duration of teaching.

Please contact the Religious Education office to learn more, view our user-friendly books and have a friendly & inspiring conversation with us: 203-261-4706.

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### ***Our Catechists, inspired by their faith through teaching:***

"I love teaching 3rd grade especially bringing the children to Mass, Adoration, learning about the Holy Eucharist, the Scriptures, mysteries of the Rosary, the Saints & Angels...our intercessors role models. It has been a joy to share my faith with them. I have learned so much from them and hope that they will share their faith and (in the tradition of Blessed Carlo Acutis), be an inspiration to their friends and families! Our children are the future of the church and need to know how to know, love and serve God, to be truly joyful in this life and forever in heaven!"

***– Barbara Bruderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade***

"I love the enthusiasm of the 4th graders and watching them grow in their faith over the year. The weekly classes held teaching the children our faith has reinforced my own spirituality. I especially enjoy teaching the children how to pray the rosary and love to hear when they tell me they use it in their everyday life."

***– Peggy Brindisi, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade***

"What I love is the experience of laying the groundwork for all future formation. Children are malleable for a short time, and I love being able to guide them with our Lord's Commandments so they can go forth and make our communities better. What does the world need the most right now? We need good people, holy people who have high moral character and integrity. The world needs people who are joyful, hopeful, and courageous. We need a lot of people like this. There is no other work quite as rewarding."

***– Merrienne Cipolla, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade***

“I love children. They’re like little sponges and so much fun. My classes always put me in a good mood. Teaching catechism increased my faith in so many ways. Children remind you of the beginning and where your foundation is. I learned from catechism that the little things make a big difference. Volunteering to be a catechist fulfilled a void I didn’t know I had.”

**- Jessica Carolina, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

“I would say that I love the opportunity to be creative and combine my own ideas with that of the textbook. I love the opportunity to make learning fun. I learned that the more the parents are involved in the forming of their children’s faith, the more the children understand. I learned that kids love to learn through games.”

**- Theresa Deecken, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

“Teaching rekindled my faith with a spark I would use to keep myself warm during the coldest and hardest point of my life. I learned that love of God can be taught, and that children want to learn. I learned more about my own faith, about how I am loved by God, in a real and true way.”

**- Christopher DeCruze, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

“In my eighteen years of teaching, I’ve learned that students also enjoy hearing about my faith-based experiences. I believe it’s important to share how being a Catholic has influenced my thoughts and actions, my friendship with Jesus, and my love for our God. Witnessing their genuine reactions and realizing I’ve made a positive impact is inspiring and fulfilling. Moments like these deepen my relationship with God and give me the endurance to continue teaching.”

**- Linda Deamico, RCIC Intermediate and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

“I have learned after my first year of teaching first grade how eager the children are to answer questions, pray together and share out loud. It’s so wonderful to help teach and shape the children in their religious lives.” :)

**- Kristen Stitzel, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

“I love the lessons from the Old Testament transitioning into the New Testament! I learned to be creative with PowerPoint presentations and displayed them on the smartboard so the children could relate the visuals to the stories such as Moses parting the Red Sea, the 10 plagues, David and Goliath, the Holy Spirit, All Saints Day, Eucharistic Miracles, Our Blessed Mother Mary and many more! The enthusiasm we shared together in class I will never forget. I loved all my 4<sup>th</sup> grade angels so much! It was such an honor to teach for God and always the highlight of my week!”

**- Nancy Lombardo, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**