

RELIGIOUS FORMATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 2008-2009

Religious Formation Catechist or Preschool Catechist Prepare lesson plans according to grade level curriculum, incorporating prayer, worship, service and community into lessons plans. Foster students to grow in their faith, recognizing faith is a gift. Attend two in-services, (fall and winter.) Attend and comply with the Archdiocesan requirements for Safe Environment and background checks. **Catechists with children enrolled in the RF program are eligible to receive a volunteer credit of 100% of the registration fees. Material fees for sacrament prep and retreat fees apply to all volunteers.**

Religious Formation or Preschool Assistant Catechist- Assist classroom catechist and students with activities and discipline during class. The assistant catechist may choose to plan and develop a portion of the weekly lesson. In the event of the absence of the catechist, the assistant may take over the class. (Unless previously agreed upon, the catechist should prepare lesson plans for the assistant catechist.) Attend two in-services (fall and winter.) Attend and comply with the Archdiocesan requirements for Safe Environment training and background checks. **Assistant catechists with children enrolled in the RF program are eligible to receive a volunteer credit of 50% of the registration fees. Material fees for sacrament prep and retreat fees apply to all volunteers.**

Liturgy of the Word for Children Leader- Adult volunteers lead the celebration of the word by proclaiming the readings and leading the discussion that follows the Gospel. One adult volunteer will lead the music. (CD available.) In addition, we have two shepherds who are responsible for dealing with any discipline issues and are responsible for identifying the gift bearers. All Liturgy of the Word for Children ministers must comply with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment training and background checks. Being a leader for Liturgy of the Word for Children becomes part of an adults' Sunday Mass obligation. LWC is offered at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Liturgy and at both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Liturgies.

Initiation of Children Catechist-The Initiation of Children catechist will assist in the sacrament preparation of children whose families are new to the Catholic Church or whose parents have been away from the Catholic Church for a period of time. The catechist will facilitate lessons at family gatherings one Sunday per month and work under the direction of the Initiation of Children Coordinator. Lessons and activities may be presented in both a family setting and/or a peer/age setting. Initiation of Children catechists must attend and comply with the Archdiocesan requirements for Safe Environment training and background checks. **Initiation of Children catechists with children enrolled in the RF program are eligible to receive a volunteer credit of 50% of the registration fees. Material fees for sacrament prep and retreat fees apply to all volunteers.**

Companion Family-Your family would journey side by side with a family who is joining the Catholic Church or who is returning to the Catholic Church after a lengthy absence. Companion families would welcome and invite the family to sit with their family at Sunday Mass and as a way of sharing their Catholic faith with their "adopted family," they would also invite them to social and spiritual opportunities within our parish.

Substitute Catechist-In the event of absence due to illness or travel, will fill in for the regular Religious Formation catechist. It is anticipated that the classroom catechist will have lesson plans available for the class session. **Substitute catechists must comply with Archdiocesan Safe Environment training and background checks.**

Prayer Service Coordinator- Coordinate prayer services for the Wednesday evening RF program. Volunteers are needed to coordinate prayer services at the beginning and end of the RF year, along with Liturgical prayer services during the Advent and Lenten seasons. Currently, our students meet for approximately 15 to 20 minutes at the beginning of each RF session during Advent and Lent. Our opening and closing prayers services last approximately 30 minutes each. Volunteers who assist in this area may choose to coordinate one or more of the prayer services at one or more RF session times.

Daycare Provide daycare for children of catechists and assistant catechists in the Religious Formation program. Daycare volunteers must comply with Archdiocesan Safe Environment training and background checks. **Daycare volunteers with children enrolled in the RF program are eligible to receive a volunteer credit of 50% of the registration fees. Material fees for sacrament prep and retreat fees apply to all volunteers. To receive a credit, daycare volunteers must agree to be available 80% of the time.**

Office Help/Hall Monitors- Provide general office help and monitor foot traffic in hallways and restrooms during RF classes on Wednesday evenings, or provide one to two hours of office help during the week. Office volunteers must comply with Archdiocesan Safe Environment training and background checks. **Office volunteers with children enrolled in the RF program are eligible to receive a credit of 50% of the registration fee for their children and must agree to be present 80% of the time. Material fees for sacrament prep and retreat fees apply to all volunteers.**

Parking Lot Monitor-Assist with monitoring traffic in the parking lot and/or assist children as they are entering and exiting their vehicle before and after RF classes on Wednesday evenings. **Volunteers must comply with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment training and background checks.**

Discipleship Mentor-The Discipleship Mentor will team up with another mentor to coordinate a total of three service projects for a group of approximately eight Confirmation candidates. Mentors will coordinate all aspects of the projects, including Field Trip Permission Forms, contacts with the service site and parents. Mentors will provide direction and support to the candidates during the service experience and the journaling that follows. Discipleship Mentors need to attend a training session and a mentor/candidate discipleship reflection, both of which will be scheduled in the fall. All Discipleship Mentors must comply with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment policy by attending a Safe Environment Training session and having a background check completed. **Discipleship Mentors with children enrolled in the RF program are eligible to receive a credit of 50% off of the registration fees. Material fees for sacrament prep and retreat fees apply to all volunteers.**

Confirmation Paper Work-This person will be responsible for checking paperwork submitted by our candidates. They will also be responsible for contacting candidates and in some instances the parents of candidates who have fallen behind in submitting the necessary papers. Paperwork includes; Baptismal Certificates, Sponsor Reflection Sheet, Saint Reflection Report, letter to the Archbishop and reflections and journaling from service experiences.

Quilt Committee- Committee members will meet in the fall to volunteer to coordinate different aspects of the 1st Eucharist quilt project. Committee members will coordinate volunteers from the 5-day school and RF program to purchase materials, cut squares, batting, die cuts, writing on squares and assist children with painting of squares. Volunteers will also assist with the quilt at retreats. We would like to have enough committee members so that each committee member would be responsible for only coordinating one aspect of the quilt project.

Quilt Volunteer-Assist the quilt committee with the quilt project by cutting squares, fabric or die cuts, writing on quilts, sewing quilts, or assisting children with painting squares during their class time.

Retreat Volunteer-Assist at retreats for 1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation and Confirmation with set-up, tear-down, greeting families and serving refreshments. **(No 2nd grade parents please.)**

1st Eucharist Volunteer-Assist with lining children up prior to Mass, leading them in prayer, placing 1st Eucharist quilts on pews and greeting families as they enter Church. **(No 2nd grade parents please.)**

Vacation Bible School Volunteer- Volunteers will assist the Director of Religious Formation with the planning and implementation of Vacation Bible School. Duties may include; Bible Story Teller, craft/game/skit or snack coordinator, daycare volunteer, or office volunteer during VBS. Vacation Bible School volunteers must comply with Archdiocesan Safe Environment training and background checks.

Refreshments-Provide cookies or snacks for catechist in-services, Confirmation Retreats, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist retreats, parent/child meetings and special events.

Server-Serve at luncheons and dinners such as Confirmation, catechist luncheons, volunteer appreciation dinner, St. Patrick's Celebrations, Poverty Meal, Ice Cream Social and other events hosted by the Office of Religious Formation.

Parish Event Volunteer: Volunteer to assist with special events in the parish, including the dinner/auction parish carnival, St. Pat's Celebration or work at fish fry's to name a few. This can be a one time commitment where you choose to help decorate for the dinner/auction, or maybe assist the evening of the auction. There are also opportunities to serve on the planning committees for these events. Your name will be provided to the appropriate parish staff member or committee chairs if you indicate an interest to assist in this area.

