

**DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY/ADULT CATECHESIS**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Catechumenate Team Ministry

Course description:

A four part journey into the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, the Catholic Church's process for the baptism of Adults and reception of Candidates into Full Communion. Each part consists of five sessions based on the four phases of the initiation process.

Calendar:

2009

Part I Pre Catechumenate – September 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 8

Topics - Conversion; Church Documents on evangelization; History of Catechumenate, overview of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*; faith sharing/prayer reflection with scripture; catechesis and faith development/formation; discernment processes; parish team formation, roles and development.

Part II Catechumenate - October 22, 29 and November 5, 12, 19

Topics – What is Church? Jesus as Church; Liturgical Calendar; Faith development through the celebration of the Church's Liturgies- celebration of Eucharist and the Holy Word; Lectionary catechesis, content and cycles; tools for integration techniques of scriptural study (Gospel exegesis), faith reflection and Church doctrine

2010

Part III Purification and Enlightenment (Minor Rites) January 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11

Topics – Catechesis and formation through ritual action, song, scripture; modeling of the minor rituals in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult*; discussion and reflection of each rite and presentations; catechesis on the liturgies of Holy Week- Passion Sunday, the Holy Triduum, especially the Easter Vigil.

Part IV Mystagogy – April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13

Topics – The answer to “What is Mystagogy?”; prayer reflection on Holy Week, the Holy Triduum and Easter celebrations (a model for parish use); additional topics to aid in understanding of the celebration of Sacraments of Initiation, the Resurrection narratives and the entire Easter Season; other doctrinal topics and ongoing catechesis- prayer tools for life.

**DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY/ADULT ENRICHMENT**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Catechumenate Team Ministry 2009 – 2010

Course Location: St. Michael Parish Hall, 751 Locust Street, St. Michael, PA

Dates: Listed in 4 Periods (Phases) each consisting of 5 week segments.

When: Thursday evenings

Time: 6:30PM – 9:00PM

NOTES: Sessions are not scheduled during the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Lent.

A CONDENSED CALENDAR: Catechumenate Team Ministry 2009 - 2010

Part I **Pre Catechumenate – Evangelization:** September 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 8

Part II **Catechumenate:** October 22, 29 and November 5, 12, 19

Part III **Purification and Enlightenment: Minor Rites-** January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11

Part IV **Mystagogy:** April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Adults who are new as directors and coordinator should attend. Those who are presently active, or who will be active, in Christian Initiation Ministry.

WHO WILL BENEFIT? Parish faith communities will benefit as the director/team become catechized and renewed in faith from this informative and experiential adult formation course. Participants are expected to be a part of, or be present at, parish initiation sessions, *RCIA* rituals and as many of the other scheduled parish liturgical celebrations (especially Lent/Easter) as possible.

BASIC LAY ECCLESIAL CERTIFICATION: Adults will keep a reflective journal throughout the course, complete a one-page reflection after each five-week segment, lead at least one opening prayer service and attend two workshops: 1. Understanding the Annulment Process 2. Part II: *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* - Rites of Particular Circumstance Concerning the Baptized or Children of Catechetical Age. Adults are encouraged to be a sponsor for a Candidate if this is their first experience in Christian Initiation.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION: In addition to the requirements for Basic, adults will complete a project before the last session. Discussion on this requirement will take place during the first two sessions.

Contact Person: Parish Life Office: Jeanne Thompson, Ministerial Coordinator, Christian Initiation – 693-9605 ext 144; B.G. Campus Ministry Office – 944-4014, ext 309
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or: Jean Schneiderbauer, Lay Ecclesial Ministry Coordinator, 693-9605 ext 161
