

HSCC Catechist Leadership Calendar 2024-25

Please mark your calendars now for these important events happening this year.

Catechist Book Club August 6 from 6:00-7:30

We will discuss the book, *"The Grace of Yes"* by Lisa Hendey and enjoy some socializing and renewal before another year of RE.

New Catechist Orientation Grades K-8 August 7 from 6:00-7:30

We will discuss with new catechists classroom management, discipline, how to pray with children and teens and the role of a catechist.

Opening Catechist Training August 29 from 6:00-7:30

Grades K-8 training and discussion with Lead Catechists

Winter Catechist Training– Catechetical Institute January 14 6:00-8:30

Grades K-8, online training through Franciscan University– required by Diocese of Joliet

Catechist Evening of Formation– with Bishop Hicks (location and time tbd) February 19

On-Going Catechist Formation Hours

All catechists are expected to spend at least six hours in on-going faith development during the RE year. Three of those hours will be completed must be through the Catechetical Institute. We will do that at the winter training as a large group. The other three can be at various other trainings for formational opportunities throughout the year.

Volunteer Expectation

It is our hope and expectation that all catechists will commit to volunteering at one event throughout the year. This increases visibility and creates community. We will send a Sign Up Genius for the events which will include shifts for the shorter events.

They include:

- **Opening Mass– August 27** at 11am Mass and 12pm Social
- **Pause for Prayer Retreat– October 4** from 4pm-8pm or **October 5** from 9am-12pm
- **Trunk or Treat– October 25** from 4pm-8pm
- **Advent Marian Event– December 6** from 4pm-8pm
- **Lenten Event– March 7** from 4pm-8pm
- **1st Eucharist Teaching Mass and Retreat– April 9** from 6pm-8pm
- **Closing Mass and May Crowning–May 4** at 11am Mass
- **VBS– June 2025**



HSCC New Catechist Compliance Requirements 2024-25

New Catechist Requirements:

1. Virtus Protecting God's Children Online Training

This is a proactive training to ensure children in our program are kept safe. This is a one-time requirement. Catechists must complete this program before beginning to teach. **All new catechists** will create an account on Virtus.

Virtus Dashboard—<https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>

2. Background Check

All new catechists are required to have a background check before beginning to teach. Background checks are completed every five years. This is completed on the Virtus website following the instructions above.

3. Mandated Reporter of Child Abuse training/Certificate and Signed Form

All new catechists are required to complete the Mandated Reporter Form and watch a video on the Virtus website. This form is completed every three years. At the three-year renewal, catechists will be required to sign the form again and watch the video to review the responsibilities of a mandated reporter.

Link to State of Illinois abuse training to watch video and then print off a certificate to return to RE Department—<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action;jsessionid=546E2330F187BED7577620B6B1AA1247>

4. Adult Volunteer Application

All new catechists are required to fill out an Adult Volunteer application and return the completed and signed document to the RE Department.

HSCC Veteran Catechist Compliance Requirements 2024-25

Veteran Catechist Requirements:

1. All catechists will need to update or create an account on Virtus. The Virtus dashboard will show you what forms need to be updated or completed before classes begin.

Virtus Dashboard—<https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>

2. Background Check

All catechists are required to have a background check that is current before classes begin. Background checks are completed every five years. This is completed via the Virtus website.

3. Mandated Reporter of Child Abuse training/Certificate and Signed Form

All catechists are required to have completed the Mandated Reporter Form and watch a video on the Virtus website. This form is completed every three years. At the three-year renewal, catechists will be required to sign the form again and watch the video to review the responsibilities of a mandated reporter.

Link to State of Illinois abuse training to watch video and then print off a certificate to return to RE Department—<https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action;jsessionid=546E2330F187BED7577620B6B1AA1247>