

Catechumenal Catechist of Children’s Initiation

➤ Overview

In the journey of Christian Initiation, Catechists have an indispensable role. They enable the faith of inquirers to resonate more and more deeply in their lives as they approach the sacraments of life in Christ. This direct formational reference to both the experience of evangelization and that of the sacraments is what distinguishes the work of Catechumenal Catechists from other catechetical roles. Under the direction of the Coordinator of Children’s Initiation, Catechumenal Catechists seek for the catechumens not just an acquaintance with doctrine and precepts, but also the experience of an “apprenticeship” in the whole of Christian life. They take an active part in the rites and celebration of the Word that mark the RCIA process.

➤ Activities/Responsibilities

- Prepares children for the sacraments of Christian Initiation.
- Assists the Ministry Coordinator by preparing lessons.
- Is present to teach the children based on the prepared lessons.
- Is available to communicate with parents and/or family members of the catechumens.
- Liaise with the Ministry Coordinator on an ongoing basis.
- Is available for meetings and training.
- Attend all liturgical celebrations and rites of the Christian Initiation process.

The Activities/Responsibilities listed above may not completely reflect the ministry performed at this parish. Please refer to the ‘Other Specifics’ box for duties that are specific to this parish.

Other specifics:

➤ Skills, Experience, and Qualifications

- Is a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church in good standing.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Has been registered with the parish for at least 2 years.
- Is recognized within the parish community as a person of good reputation.
- Possesses a good knowledge of the Christian Initiation process and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Can relate effectively and communicate clearly with others, especially children, youth and their families.
- Must have good presentation skills.
- Ability to facilitate meetings and group dynamics.

- In cases of emergency, knows contacts and/or procedures.

➤ **Personal Traits and Qualities**

- Desires to serve the community and to commit time and talents to this ministry.
- Needs to be a person of prayer.
- Desires to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Liturgical Rites.
- Has a willingness to work with the Pastor, the Ministry Coordinator and fellow Catechumenal Catechists to ensure the ministry is conducted with efficiency, decorum and reverence.
- Has a helpful, supportive and non-threatening attitude in working with children and their parents.
- Is comfortable with being accountable and is sensitive to the observance of proper boundaries.
- Has a spirit of generosity.

➤ **Orientation and Training**

Standard parish orientation program and training provided by Ministry Coordinator. There are resources and sessions provided through the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

➤ **Participant Group**

Children enrolled in the RCIA program and their families, and other Catechumenal Catechists.

➤ **Support, Supervision, and Evaluation**

The Coordinator for Children’s Initiation and/or Pastor is the first level of support, supervision and evaluation.

➤ **Length of Ministry Appointment**

___ year term.

➤ **Benefits and Working Conditions**

Will have a direct impact on the faith formation of children and their families.

Will further develop leadership and facilitation skills.

Will enhance personal growth of faith.

Opportunity to perform community service and gain experience for the purpose of school or career advancement.

This is a volunteer position which requires a time commitment of ___ hours per week/ ___ hours per month.

Must be able to attend the orientation session and training sessions as required.

Must be available for all necessary meetings, events and liturgical celebrations.

➤ **Screening Recommendations**

This is a High risk position.

Completion of a Volunteer Information Form is required.

An interview and personal reference checks are required.

A Criminal Record Check is required.

Training and orientation are required.

There will be supervision and periodic evaluations.
Participant follow-ups will be conducted.

This ministry position description accurately reflects the Ministry of Catechumenal Catechist of Children’s Initiation currently practiced at _____.
(Parish Name)

Parish Volunteer Screening Committee

Pastor

Date

Prepared by: Archdiocese of Toronto