

**St. Alphonsus
&
St. John the Evangelist
Parishes**

Catechetical Plan

*“To provide an environment
that strives to develop strong Catholic values
in our children and faith community
through prayer, education, service, and stewardship.”*

— Joint Parish Mission Statement

St. Alphonsus Parish
6301 344th Ave., P.O. Box 767
New Munster, WI 53152

St. John the Evangelist Parish
701 N. Lake Ave.
Twin Lakes, WI 53181

Developed May 2013
By the Joint-Parish Lifelong Faith Formation Committee

St. Alphonsus & St. John the Evangelist Parishes Catechetical Plan

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

The parishes of St. Alphonsus and St. John the Evangelist recognize the need for faith formation that supports all stages of the Christian life from initial conversion to maturity as disciples of Christ. Each stage of the Christian journey is a gift of grace given by God and received by the person.

As faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to our care, we embrace Christ’s call to “make disciples.” We believe that evangelization and catechesis are ongoing, lifelong responsibilities of the entire Christian community. We believe adult faith formation is the central task of the catechetical endeavor.

The *General Directory for Catechesis* states, “the maturation of the Christian life requires that it be cultivated in all its dimensions: knowledge of the faith, liturgical life, moral formation, prayer, belonging to community, missionary spirit. When catechesis omits one of these elements, the Christian faith does not attain full development.”¹

The guiding principle of this plan is to provide future direction for the lifelong faith formation ministry of our joint-parish community so that our catechetical efforts include all six dimensions of catechesis necessary for forming mature disciples of Christ.

Overall Goals

1. To become a more welcoming and hospitable community
2. To foster personal relationships with Christ lived within the Christian community
3. To increase accessibility to faith formation for all parishioners
4. To shift from child and youth-centered catechesis to adult-centered catechesis
5. To integrate the Hispanic community into the larger community

¹ *General Directory for Catechesis*, 87.

Dimension of Christian Maturity: Knowledge of the Faith

Goal: We provide an ever-deepening systematic, comprehensive catechesis of the Catholic faith throughout the lifelong journey of faith.

Objective: To increase faith formation opportunities, access, and participation

Strategies

- Increase the number of qualified catechists of children, youth, and adults by providing local opportunities for certification and formation
- Utilize the bulletin, website, and parish libraries to present knowledge of the faith in an interesting and engaging way (e.g., topic of the month)
- Purchase “Lighthouse Catholic Media” CD display for each parish
- Meet with Hispanic parish leadership regularly to develop collaboration through faith formation
- Translate child and youth Faith Formation registration materials into Spanish, noting that the program is only offered in English

Dimension of Christian Maturity: Liturgical Life

Goal: We have “full, conscious, and active participation” in liturgical celebrations.

Objective: To provide liturgical catechesis through education, formation, and experience at all age levels

Strategies

- Increase awareness that the liturgy is the “privileged place for catechizing the People of God” (CCC, 1074; cf. CT, 23)
- Use a multi-faceted approach to catechize on the parts of the Mass; the signs, symbols and gestures used; and the liturgical year
- Encourage our homilists to include some catechesis into each homily
- Meet with our parish leader and Prayer and Worship committee to discuss incorporating children and families into liturgical ministries and celebrations
- Make use of childhood sacramental preparation to catechize families
- Regularly assess the catechetical message communicated by the whole community

Dimension of Christian Maturity: Moral Formation

Goal: We foster interior transformation and values consistent with living a Christ-centered life.

Objective: To provide education and formation rooted in Catholic beliefs and social teaching principles

Strategies

- Work with the Human Concerns committee to provide education on social issues (e.g., marriage, Faithful Citizenship, immigration)
- Provide catechesis on current events in light of Church teaching
- Offer service learning opportunities that include catechesis, formation, experience, and reflection for all ages
- Encourage committees to include the youth in service opportunities offered by the parishes

Dimension of Christian Maturity: Prayer

Goal: We offer meaningful prayer experiences that enhance both personal and communal relationships with Christ.

Objective: To enrich the prayer lives of parishioners through catechesis on prayer and by offering a variety of prayer experiences

Strategies

- Form a weekly/monthly prayer group in conjunction with the Prayer Network
- Periodically offer an experiential series on prayer forms and expressions
- Incorporate meaningful prayer experiences into all catechetical endeavors
- Meet with parish leader and Prayer and Worship committee to discuss providing a monthly/quarterly Anointing of the Sick service

Dimension of Christian Maturity: Belonging to Community

Goal: We are a vibrant, welcoming, and growing community of disciples of Christ.

Objective: To create catechetical programs that incorporate participants into the larger parish community

Strategies

- Provide formation on belonging to the Christian community
- Form a network of small faith formation groups: recruit and train facilitators, provide resources, and offer ongoing support
- Offer a bi-annual/annual retreat (e.g., Christ Renews His Parish, Light of the World)
- Offer quarterly/bi-annual days/evenings of reflection
- Support marriage through catechesis and enrichment opportunities

Dimension of Christian Maturity: Missionary Spirit

Goal: We have a strong sense of mission and freely share the Good News of Christ in word and deed in our families, workplaces, and world.

Objective: To educate and form parishioners who actively participate in the mission of evangelization

Strategies

- Provide catechesis aimed at “enkindling the fire of God’s love” in those who attend regularly
- Incorporate time for faith sharing into committee meetings whenever possible
- Offer workshops on how to welcome inactive Catholics
- Create an email distribution list of all registered parishioners and email formative information, invitations to parish events, reminders of Holy Days, etc.