



Foundations of Faith Course Frequently Asked Questions (June 2021)

Foundations of Faith is the basic diocesan course in catechesis. Participants (school teachers, parish catechists, other ministry leaders, and any adult) receive basic certification in catechesis upon completion of the course. This adult formation should help all Catholics continue to grow as catechists into “the big picture” of Catholic Faith and life which will, in turn, help them better hand on that same Faith to the adults and young people in our families, parishes, and schools.

Teachers who teach religion and are still working toward their basic certification are required to complete the Foundations of Faith Course in the next 2 years or 2 years from their hire date.

All teachers (not only those who teach religion) can receive Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for each class as they complete the course.

When is Foundations of Faith offered?

The course is offered in the Fort Wayne area and the South Bend area of the diocese **every year beginning in both August/September and January/February** as well as a summer course in **June**. There is **no fee for anyone** (parish catechists, other adults) to participate in this course.

How many classes do I need to attend?

In the fall and spring, Foundations of Faith runs over 16 weeks with **eight classes (every other week)**. Two instructors teach four classes apiece, and each class is two hours long. **A week of summer classes is also offered**, allowing the course to be completed over two summers. **Classes should be taken in order if possible but can be taken at different times as needed (Fall, Spring, and/or Summer).**

How do the assignments work?

Assigned reading and writing prompts are completed prior to most of the classes. Between the classes in fall and spring, participants have **10 days (over two weekends) to complete, on average, about 3 hours of outside work:** reading passages of Sacred Scripture, reading sections of the Catechism, and completing writing prompts which are submitted to the instructor. With a few days to review the participants’ written work, the instructor can integrate themes and questions into the upcoming class. The week-long summer course is much more condensed.

What if I only have one or two of the previous courses left to complete?

We will work with participants individually to determine which units of Foundations of Faith can be waived for them. Participants will not need to repeat material they have already covered.

Please send all other questions and feedback to jkaltenbach@diocesefwsb.org Thank you!