

# Will You Volunteer?

Please check one of the boxes below and return this form to the parish office or deposit in the Sunday collection Basket.

I am interested in volunteering as a catechist (teacher).

I am interested in volunteering as an aide in a classroom.

I would like to help serve in the office during classes

I would like to help with special projects

I am interested, and would like more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*training is provided for catechists and aides*

# The word requires a voice



SAINT JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish School of Religion



1813 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA 95355  
Office Phone: 551-4973

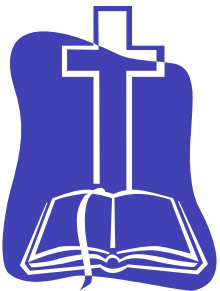
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# Volunteer Catechist Program

[www.stjmod.com/education/psr/catechists.html](http://www.stjmod.com/education/psr/catechists.html)

*Attend to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in both tasks, for by doing so you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.*



~ 1 Timothy 4:16



SAINT JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish  
School  
† of †  
Religion



And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?  
~Romans 10:14



### Christ Centered

Following the call of Pope John Paul II, our school of religion strives to make every teaching moment an encounter and exchange with the person of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, Jesus is never a subject of teaching, rather he is the teaching; it's source and strength. Keeping this in mind, we always work to make our classes an opportunity for growth in faith and engagement with mystery and not merely a presentation of a disconnected 'top of the day.' This approach is easier for volunteer catechists because it keeps their students focused on Jesus and interested students are always easier to teach.

### Help with lesson planning

Our curriculum for the year is planned in advance with one-page teacher guides for each lesson. Teachers meet as part of their regular teaching commitment for 15 minute meetings to hone their skill and stay informed throughout the school year.



### Parent Centered

Our School of Religion strives to be a **“family-centered”** program. We partner with parents to nourish and develop children's faith according to the basic principle defined by the Church: **Parents are the primary educators of their children.** Our classroom volunteers work to support the efforts of parents, but we assume that parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith, teaching both traditional prayers and the art of prayer, attending Mass every Sunday together as a family, and leading them in living a life a charity.



### Teacher or catechist?

The term catechist is often used without considering its full meaning. The bottom-line difference is this: a teacher teaches about some-**thing** and a catechist 'hands-on' some-**one**. A catechist 'echo's down' faith in Jesus Christ and life in his Church. This meaning 'echo-down' follows the original Greek word that was first used in this way by Saint Paul. At St. Joseph's we strive to 'echo' God's voice and move away from merely teaching him as another interesting subject like history or biology. We do this because God's love and grace are real, present and active in his Church today. Catholicism is not only history, it's mystery.



### Formation: Developing the spirituality of the catechist

Throughout the year we offer several ways for catechists to continue to form their own faith in addition to diocesan programs. These programs are offered at no cost.

- Summertime Catechist Retreat
- Annual Catechist Orientation
- Individualized Formation Plan
- Catholicism 101—Course on each of the 4 parts of the Catechism (offered in 4, 3 session segments each year leading to “parish certification”)

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We need volunteers to help make our parish school the best possible. We invite you to join our community as a...

*Catechist*

*Classroom aide*

*Office aide*

*Help with special projects*