

## Billerica Catholic Religious Education

### Volunteer Title: Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) Presenter (Catechist)



**Objective:** You have a great share in the work of Billerica Catholic Religious Education to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to our young adolescents. This is one of the most rewarding roles one can fill in the Church today.

**Description/Responsibilities:** “Catechist” is the Church’s name for a teacher of the faith - one who is in a leadership role to share and teach the faith to others. As the Presenter, you are a Catechist. You have the primary **responsibility for conveying the content** of the curriculum. You are not expected to supervise students, manage attendance, or respond to behavior issues of the students - those are the responsibility of the students’ Small Group Leaders and the Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) Coordinator.

The Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) Coordinator, who will also be a Presenter, will work with the team of Presenters to decide how to convey the content of the curriculum to the students, and what methods will be used for each plan prepared. This will be done in conjunction with the topic schedule, curriculum resources, and supplemental resources.

*Please familiarize yourself with the buildings in which you are serving.*

All Billerica Catholic Religious Education volunteers are expected to abide by the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct.

**Time Commitment:** Attend all sessions as scheduled to present. The Billerica Catholic Religious Education Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) program will consist of 15 sessions per year, and each Presenter may be asked to present 1-3 presentations per scheduled Middle School session. *Please make a point of arriving to the session early, in order to make last-minute preparations.* If an absence is necessary, the Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) Coordinator must be contacted as soon as possible in order to make alternative arrangements within the team of Presenters.

*Presenters are expected to meet regularly (perhaps as regularly as once during the preparation weeks) in order to plan the upcoming sessions. Additional trainings may also be scheduled.*

**Training & Support:** Training will be offered as necessary. Additional opportunities include Catechist Certification, Adult Faith Formation, and other opportunities, as they are available in our area.

**Supervision:** All Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) Presenters report directly to the Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) Coordinator.

**Communication:** Primarily through e-mail

*Please see reverse side for additional information...*

**Qualifications:** It is preferable that Presenters (Catechists) have completed, or are working to complete, an approved program toward Catechetical Certification. Multiple options are available and should be discussed with the Parish Staff.

Presenters need to have a basic understanding of Catholic teaching, Scripture, and Catholic Tradition; a desire to pursue honest and caring relationships with young people and the adult leaders; and effective techniques and strategies in working with young people. All Presenters are expected to be Catholics in good standing with the Church, including regular Mass attendance and reception of the Eucharist, having received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, and is an authentic witness to their Catholic faith.

All volunteers with Billerica Catholic Religious Education programs are expected to:

- have an annual CORI (background check) on file
- complete the *Protecting God's Children* (Virtus) program
- sign the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct.

**A Presenter Has:**

- A desire to grow in and share faith with others
- A desire to witness and be a role model to young adolescents and their parents
- An awareness of God's grace and the desire to respond to that grace
- An ability to make presentations to groups of young adolescents
- A commitment to the church's liturgical and sacramental life and moral teachings
- A strength of character built on patience, responsibility, confidence, and creativity
- A recognition of the importance of being a living witness of the Church's moral teachings
- A generosity of spirit, a respect for diversity, and a habit of hospitality and inclusion

**Things To Keep In Mind Regarding Sessions:**

Please follow the curriculum and lesson plans as provided by the Navigators (Gr. 6-7-8) Coordinator, and as noted in the schedule. Sometimes, you may have difficulty covering all the material possible in a given session. We ask that you try to do your best. *Your witness of the faith is your greatest asset as a Presenter.*

Please use all of the time as best you can. Always share with the children and their parents the story of God's love for all of us, the gift of Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the importance of the Eucharist, the role of the church community, and our responsibility to live our faith in our daily lives. Encourage your students to "take ownership" of the faith and to always want to learn more about our Catholic faith.