



MISSIONARIES of JOY

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Essential Information To Know

What is Missionaries of Joy?

Missionaries of Joy is a new evangelization initiative forming lay leaders across the Archdiocese to help cultivate a vibrant culture of evangelization in every parish. Inspired by “Evangelii Gaudium” (The Joy of the Gospel) and aligned with Archbishop Rozanski’s vision document, “Disciples Make Disciples,” this initiative equips parishioners to share their faith with joy, clarity, and confidence.

Why Missionaries of Joy?

We are living in a time of spiritual hunger and cultural confusion. As our culture becomes increasingly secular and self-reliant, the need for bold, joyful evangelization is urgent. The Missionaries of Joy initiative is being launched to build disciples who make disciples, and to equip lay leaders to walk alongside their pastors in renewing parish life from within.

LEARN MORE: archstl.org/missionaries-of-joy



Two Pathways. One Mission.

As we listened to feedback from pastors and parishioners, it became clear that one formation model could not serve all needs. Missionaries of Joy now offers two distinct but united pathways:

THE PARISH LEADERSHIP PATHWAY

For individuals invited or approved by their pastor to actively support the parish's evangelization efforts in a focused, intentional way. In addition to formation and in-person gatherings, participants will work with their pastor to discern a specialized ministry track aligned with their parish needs. Participants in the Parish Leadership Pathway are expected to collaborate closely with the pastor and other parish leaders to plan and implement local evangelization efforts in alignment with the parish priorities.

The \$300 materials fee for the Parish Leadership Pathway will be shared equally between the parish and participant, each contributing \$150.

THE MISSIONARY DISCIPLE PATHWAY

For those desiring spiritual growth and formation, but not called into a formal leadership role at this time. Participants in the Missionary Discipleship Pathway receive the same theological and spiritual formation and are equipped to evangelize through joyful witness in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

The \$150 materials fee for the Missionary Discipleship Pathway is contributed by the participant only.

This flexible model honors the diverse gifts of each participant and helps ensure that everyone is placed on a path that best supports their growth and contributes meaningfully to the life of the parish.

Your final placement in a pathway will reflect your readiness and your pastor's discernment. All participants receive the same foundational formation; those invited into the Parish Leadership Pathway will also engage in specialized ministry planning aligned with parish needs.

NOTE: COST SHOULD NEVER BE A BARRIER—PLEASE REACH OUT IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.



What will participants experience?

All participants will take part in:

- A 12-course online curriculum following a monthly formation schedule with courses taught by Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology professors in an engaging, self-paced, and in-depth format. This thorough curriculum focuses on three main areas of study: Scripture, doctrine, and the Christian life, and will provide you with a systematic overview of Catholic theology.
- Quarterly, in-person training days led by the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Discipleship.
 - Each quarter, regional location options and two date options are offered to accommodate your schedule. Locations will be determined based on participation level.
 - Sessions begin at 8:30 AM and conclude by 3:00 PM and include lunch and snacks.
- Receive a Certificate in Catholic Theology (Augustine Institute) and a Certificate in Evangelization (Archdiocese of St. Louis) upon program completion.

Parish Leadership Pathway participants will additionally:

- Discern and enter a specialized ministry track aligned with the parish's needs.
- Collaborate intentionally with their pastor and fellow parish leaders in evangelization planning.

SEMESTER ONE - 2025

JUNE "Disciples Make Disciples"
Learn and understand
Archbishop Rozanski's Vision for the
Archdiocese of St. Louis

JULY *Jesus and the Gospels*
Online Course

AUGUST *Discipleship in the Gospels*
Online Course
Opening Mass at
The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis on
August 24

SEPTEMBER *Our Life in Christ*
Online Course

OCTOBER *Prayer and Spirituality*
Online Course
In-Person Training on the "Moment"

NOVEMBER *The Church and the Sacraments*
Online Course

DECEMBER *The Manger and the Cross*
Online Course

SEMESTER TWO - 2026

JANUARY *The New Evangelization*
Online Course
In-Person Training on the "Message"

FEBRUARY *The Story of the Old Testament*
Online Course

MARCH *Letters of St. Paul*
Online Course
In-Person Training on the "Model"

APRIL *God*
Online Course

MAY *Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*
Online Course
In-Person Training on the "Method"

JUNE *Catechesis in the
Mission of Evangelization*
Online Course

JULY Commissioning Mass at
The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis
on July 25



Online Course Descriptions

JESUS AND THE GOSPELS

This course will show how the Gospels reveal the person of Jesus Christ and his mission, and provide principles for reading the gospels more deeply.

DISCIPLESHIP IN THE GOSPELS

What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? In this class, you will unpack the biblical roots of discipleship and learn how to be a true disciple of Christ in your own life, answering his call to follow him.

OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

This course will explore the Catholic understanding of living the good life in Christ and the principles that should govern our moral decision-making.

PRAYER AND CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

This class will dive into the rich Catholic tradition of prayer and devotion alongside some of the great saints and doctors of the Church in order to prepare the student to transform his or her own prayer life.

THE CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENTS

This course will give an introduction to ecclesiology – what the Church is – and why the Church has seven sacraments at the center of its worship.

THE MANGER AND THE CROSS

This course covers the Church's teaching about Christ, why God became man in the person of Jesus and how his death on the cross saves us.

THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

This class will address the great need to evangelize in the world today and provide some lessons and encouragement for those who wish to share the gospels with others.

THE STORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

This course provides an overview of the story of salvation in the Old Testament, and equips students to read the Old Testament on their own.

LETTERS OF SAINT PAUL

This course will introduce the theology of St. Paul and discuss many of the most important themes found in his letters – salvation, Jesus' fulfillment of the covenant, and the Church as the body of Christ.

GOD

This course addresses two major concepts at the center of our faith—the nature of God and the mystery of the Trinity—with an eye to the importance of these truths in our everyday lives.

PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The transformative power of the Gospel is meant to shape both individuals and communities. This course explores the major principles of Catholic social teaching and what they mean for Christian living in society.

CATECHESIS IN THE MISSION OF EVANGELIZATION

This course will explore the mission of catechesis in the New Evangelization, addressing catechesis in the mission of evangelization and effective catechetical methods so that the Gospel can reach the hearts and minds of modern men and women.



What will I gain from the online curriculum?

The Augustine Institute faculty's mission is to train leaders for the New Evangelization. They will deepen your intellectual formation so that you can bring the fruits of your studies to the service of the Church.

You will learn from biblical scholars, theologians, and historians, trained not only in their academic disciplines, but who also have frontline experience in parish life and Catholic education.

Although course formats vary slightly, each course generally includes:

- Six to eight lessons
- Thirty minutes of video instruction per lesson (totaling three to four hours)
- A short quiz to reinforce learning
- Additional resources from Formed.org, Church documents, modern Catholic voices, and the writings of the saints
- Reflection questions

Do I need to complete the online courses in a specific order?

Yes. Each course is designed to build upon the one before it, offering a gradual and prayerful deepening of your understanding. The self-paced courses are released monthly—you'll receive access to a new course at the beginning of each month.

You won't be able to work ahead, and that's intentional. The program is designed to work in a steady rhythm inviting you to fully absorb each topic, reflect on it, and let the Lord speak to you through the process. Formation takes time—and this structure is meant to support your growth as a joyful missionary disciple.

What technology do I need for the online courses?

The courses are designed to work on most modern devices with a web browser, excluding Roku and Apple TV.

Will I receive reminders and updates?

Yes. You will receive periodic emails with course guidance, key reminders, and encouragement.

Please be sure to add missionariesofjoy@archstl.org to your contacts or safe sender list to ensure these emails don't end up in your spam or promotions folder. Staying connected through these updates will be an important part of your formation journey.



Will I work with other participants in my parish during the program?

(Parish Leadership Pathway only) Yes. While the core formation is delivered online, collaboration at the parish level is an essential part of the Parish Leadership Pathway. You can expect to engage in discussion, planning, or ministry development alongside other participants and parish leaders as part of your specialized ministry track.

The extent and format of this collaboration may vary based on your pastor's vision and the needs of your parish, but your role as a Parish Leadership Pathway participant includes a commitment to working with others in service of your parish's evangelization mission. This pathway is not meant to be walked alone—it is rooted in community, shared discernment, and active participation in the life of your parish.

Can I go through the program with a spouse, family member, or friend?

Yes—with a note! While each participant must register individually and complete the coursework through their own account, we absolutely encourage shared discussion, fellowship, and prayer with others going through the program. Walking the journey alongside someone you know can be a beautiful support to your formation.

Is the Missionary Discipleship pathway open to all ages?

Yes, we welcome adults of all ages. Whether you're newly engaged in parish life or have served for years, your "yes" can make a difference.

What are the specialized ministry tracks and how are they chosen?

(Parish Leadership Pathway only) Specialized ministry tracks are a unique feature of the Parish Leadership Pathway. They provide focused training and practical tools to help you take on a leadership role in an area of parish life where your pastor most needs support.

These tracks are not one-size-fits-all—they are chosen through a collaborative discernment process with your pastor. Early in the second semester, your pastor will help you identify a track that aligns with your gifts, experience, and the pastoral priorities of your parish. Suggested areas of focus include:

- Small Group Leadership
- Sacramental Preparation
- Social Outreach
- Parish Development for the Proclamation of the Gospel

You're encouraged to have a conversation with your pastor during the first semester to begin that discernment. You don't need to have it all figured out from the start—a spirit of openness and willingness is enough. Your specialized focus will emerge over time through formation, reflection, and dialogue.



What happens after the year ends?

Upon completion of the program in July 2026, all participants will receive a Certificate in Catholic Theology from the Augustine Institute and a Certificate in Evangelization from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Both will be presented by Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski at a special Mass of Commissioning during the Bicentennial Jubilee.

From there, your next steps will reflect the pathway you completed.

- Those in the Parish Leadership Pathway will be invited to continue serving in a focused ministry area within the parish, in collaboration with their pastor and other parish leaders.
- Those in the Missionary Disciple Pathway will be sent forth to live out their faith through daily witness in homes, workplaces, and communities.

Together, all participants will form a growing network of missionary disciples—carrying the flame of faith into the next 200 years of the Church in St. Louis.

What should I know about the quarterly in-person meetings?

The quarterly in-person meetings led by the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship offer:

- Opportunities for learning, building community, sharing experiences, and growing together in mission.
- Regional location options—to be determined based upon the initiative's participation level.
- Two date options per quarter to accommodate your schedule.
- Saturday sessions 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM include lunch and snacks.

Attendance at the quarterly meetings is an essential part of the journey. We ask all participants to make them a priority as part of their commitment to the program.

Quarter 1 – The “Moment”

Theme: Understanding Our Missionary Context
Topics: From Christendom to Mission, Parish Life Challenges
Choice of: Saturday, October 11 or October 25, 2025

Quarter 2 – The “Message”

Theme: The Kerygma and Personal Witness
Topics: What is the Kerygma?, Testimony, Intercessory Prayer
Choice of: Saturday, January 10 or January 17, 2026

Quarter 3 – The “Model”

Theme: Conversion and Discipleship Pathways
Topics: Thresholds of Conversion, Discipleship Models, Foundations of Discipleship
Choice of: Saturday, March 7 or March 14, 2026

Quarter 4 – The “Method”

Theme: Evangelization in Action
Topics: Incarnational Evangelization, Accompaniment, New Methods of Mission
Choice of: Saturday, May 9 or May 16, 2026



What experience should I have?

No prior ministry experience is required for either pathway. Missionaries of Joy is designed for adults who have a desire to grow in faith, a love for the Church, and a willingness to serve in the Church's mission of evangelization.

Applicants are considered for one of two formation pathways:

- The Parish Leadership Pathway is best suited for those ready to take on a focused role in their parish's evangelization efforts.
- The Missionary Disciple Pathway is for those seeking personal spiritual growth and formation, without a formal leadership role.

Your final placement in a pathway will reflect your readiness and your pastor's discernment. All participants receive the same foundational formation; those invited into the Parish Leadership Pathway will also engage in specialized ministry planning aligned with the parish needs.

What are the next steps?

1. Pray about your call to deeper mission
2. Talk to your pastor — especially if you feel called to serve in a leadership role within your parish
3. Complete your online registration at archstl.org/missionaries-of-joy
4. Wait for confirmation of your pathway and the next steps based on the review process

