

## AMS – Theology Phase Calendar 2024-25 – Hybrid Format AS ON-GOING FORMATION

**Location:** Online Zoom Classes (**Zoom link will be sent every month after registration**)  
In Person - San Fernando Region -15101 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Mission Hills CA 91345

**Time:** Saturdays, 9:00am – 4:00pm  
(**Digital Doors will open at 8:45 am for hospitality conversations – In person check in 8:30 am all classes will start prompt at 9:00 am**)

**Fee Per Class:** \$25.00 – ongoing formation track doesn't require assignments only attendance. Find monthly registration link [HERE](#) or visit the ADLA Store @ <http://store.la-archdiocese.org/>

### Date and Format

August 24, **2024**

In Person

September 14

Zoom

October 19

Zoom

November 16

Zoom

December 14

Zoom

January 18, **2025**

In Person

February 8

Zoom

March 15

In Person

April 12

Zoom

May 17

In Person

June 7

Zoom

June 21

In Person

### Session Theme and Presenter

Call to the Mission of the Church

[Rev. Parker Sandoval](#)

Theological Reflection and Spirituality

[Sr. Nancy Usselmann, Ph.D.](#)

Principles of Catholic Theology and Revelation

[Dr. Matthew Ramage, Ph.D.](#)

Hebrew Scripture OT

[Dr. Matthew Ramage, Ph.D.](#)

Christian Scripture NT

[Dr. Matthew Ramage, Ph.D.](#)

Christology and Soteriology 456

[Dr. Stuart Squires, Ph.D.](#)

Ecclesiology and Pneumatology

[Dr. Paul Ford, Ph.D.](#)

Eschatology, Mariology, and the Saints

[Fr. Leo Ortega PhD](#)

Moral Theology and Contemporary Dilemmas

[Rev. Luke Dysinger, Ph.D.](#)

Liturgy, Sacramentality and Sacraments

[Dr. Paul Ford, Ph.D.](#)

Catholic Social Teaching - Mission of the Church

[Mr. Sergio Lopez, CRS Community Engagement](#)

Retreat – more details TBA

## **The Importance of Formation**

The transmission of faith goes far beyond teaching classes or memorizing prayers, it needs to be a mystagogical process. There are behaviors that need to be learned and that will become part of a discipleship lifestyle that formation leaders must be able to transmit with word and example. Catechetical leaders and ministers in leadership positions play an important role in the lives of the people they have been entrusted with. In affirmation to those in this role Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical *Redemptoribus Missio* (1990), described catechists as “specialists, direct witnesses and irreplaceable evangelizers... whom represent the basic strength of Christian communities, especially in the young church.” Communities need to be initiated in a formation process that is a lifelong formation. We never cease to learn to be effective ministers. The 1993 **Guide for Catechists** issued by the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of People highlights the need for proper formation of catechists at basic and advanced levels, entrusting its realization to the bishop as the authentic teacher of the apostolic faith. It also delineates a broad spectrum of formation in the areas of theology, spirituality, liturgy, missiology, sacred scripture, catechetics, methodology, human development, and the list goes on. In living their vocation, catechetical leaders must be “*formed according to the union which exists from their being members of the Church and citizens of the human society.*”

In May 2021, Pope Francis with his Apostolic Letter “*Antiquum Ministerium - Ancient Ministry*,” instituted the Ministry of Catechist as a formal vocation in the Catholic Church. He states that the vocational aspect of this ministry calls for “men and women of deep faith and human maturity, active participants in the life of the Christian community, capable of welcoming others, being generous and living a life of fraternal communion. They should also receive suitable biblical, theological, pastoral, and pedagogical formation to be competent communicators of the truth...” These words of the Holy Father illuminate the need for proper formation for such a fundamental evangelizing catechesis service.

**The Office of Religious Education in our Archdiocese offers a certification in Advanced Ministry Studies** to women and men in your parish that would like to prepare themselves with a formal formation with emphasis in pastoral and ecclesial applications. Giving them the opportunity to be formed to exercise different roles in the parish.

**AMS – Theology and Catechetical Phase can also be taken as Ongoing Formation to give parish catechetical leaders an opportunity to be formed without investing time in certification assignments.**

**Who can participate in this formation?** Parish Catechetical Leaders, (Religious Education coordinators, Youth Ministers, Catechists, RCIA team, Baptismal Formation teams, etc.) Catholic School religion teachers/campus ministers, lay or religious ministers (working in any ministry in the church) and/or for their own personal growth. Any person that wants to have formal education and growth deeper in their faith can take the classes for their own ongoing formation with a 50% discount.

Each AMS credit class fee is \$50.00 and \$25.00 per class as ongoing formation.

For more information, please visit our webpage [HERE](#).  
Or contact Flor de Maria Luna [FLuna@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:FLuna@la-archdiocese.org)