

# Seat of Wisdom Diocesan Institute



## WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

The *Seat of Wisdom Diocesan Institute* is a program of adult faith formation and catechetical certification in the Roman Catholic

Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin. It offers a comprehensive and systematic formation based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and aims to draw its participants into deeper communion with Jesus Christ, strengthening them to be more effective witnesses and teachers of the Gospel.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Institute is for all adults seeking to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith.

In addition to offering general certificates for adult formation, the institute also offers certification for parish catechists, Catholic school principals and teachers, directors and coordinators of religious education, youth ministers, and all those involved in any form of adult religious education. Other personnel serving in parish leadership positions are encouraged to register and attend as well.

## WHERE IS THE INSTITUTE LOCATED?

Our classes are offered regionally throughout the diocese in order to serve the largest number of students from our 131 parishes.

## WHAT IS THE COST?

Though no one will be turned away for an inability to pay, tuition for each course is \$10.

*“The Christian community cannot carry out a permanent catechesis without the direct and skilled participation of adults, whether as receivers or as promoters of catechetical activity.”* John Paul II, *On Catechesis in Our Time*

## WHAT COURSES DO WE OFFER?

Sharing the Church’s conviction that the fundamentals are the very best and most fruitful of topics, the Seat of Wisdom Diocesan Institute offers a systematic and in-depth formation in the fundamentals of our Catholic Faith. These include the inexhaustible truths God wants us to know with absolute certitude. We will ponder them for all eternity.

## BASIC COURSES FOR CATHOLIC FOUNDATIONS CERTIFICATE

- 1. Introduction to Sacred Scripture** (12 hours): This course includes a compelling overview of Salvation History in sacred art; an introduction to Sacred Scripture and its interpretation, including the key doctrines of inspiration, canonicity, inerrancy; and the relation between Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium. Also included is an excellent Bible Timeline DVD series.
- 2. Creed** (6 hours): Focusing on the Creed, subjects include faith, the Trinity, Creation, Jesus Christ, the paschal mystery, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the four last things.
- 3. Sacraments** (6 hours): The mysteries confessed in the Creed are communicated and actualized in the sacraments. The Divine origin, nature and central role of the sacraments in our lives and the life of the Church will be presented.
- 4. Life in Christ** (6 hours): This course addresses the purpose and key principles of Catholic moral teaching.
- 5. Christian Prayer** (6 hours): Here, we offer an introduction to prayer and an overview of the foundations of the spiritual life, with an emphasis on the ongoing conversion of heart.



Go to [www.madisondiocese.org/seatofwisdom](http://www.madisondiocese.org/seatofwisdom) for current classes and locations.





## Do whatever he tells you

**S**eat of Wisdom is one of the titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the Son of God, the Eternal Wisdom, took flesh from her womb and as an infant rested in her arms. In pondering her divine Son Jesus, Mary “became the model of all those who hear the word of God and keep it (cf. Lk 11:28), and merited the title ‘Seat of Wisdom’” (John Paul II, *The Splendor of Truth*).

With Holy Mary as our model, the Seat of Wisdom Diocesan Institute seeks to serve the catechetical mission of the Church in leading the faithful to hear, study, and ponder the “mystery of Christ,” and accordingly, put them “not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (John Paul II, *On Catechesis in Our Time*).

Our Blessed Mother, Seat of Wisdom, invites all to accept and grow in deeper communion with her Son Jesus, the *Eternal Word of God* (Jn. 1:1f). As she commanded the servants at Cana in Galilee, so too she addresses us: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn. 2:5).

Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15

Some comments from program participants:

*“Though I’ve been a parish DRE for 18 years and earned a Religious Education degree, attending the Seat of Wisdom course in Sacred Scripture made me realize there was much more to learn. Our catechists and I not only learned more but were spiritually fed. We look forward to the course on the Creed!”*

Tina Schoebel, DRE  
St. John the Baptist, Montello

*“The Seat of Wisdom Diocesan Institute is very accessible. Planning to schedule a session during our school staff development day gave all the teachers an opportunity to reflect on the ‘big picture’ of salvation history. Growing in knowledge and faith can only strengthen us to be more effective witnesses of the gospel.”*

Arelene McMorran Principal  
Our Lady of the Assumption School, Beloit

*“The course on the Creed was engaging and outstanding in its depth, illustrating to me the necessity to always be learning more about our faith.”*

Jane Graves, Director of Faith Formation  
St. William Parish, Janesville

### For additional information and registration:

Go to: [www.madisondiocese.org/seatofwisdom](http://www.madisondiocese.org/seatofwisdom)  
E-mail: [oec@straphael.org](mailto:oec@straphael.org)  
Write: Diocese of Madison  
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702 S. High Point Rd.  
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“Do whatever he tells you” (Jn.2:5)

A Formation Program for  
Adults of the Diocese of Madison



Diocese of Madison  
Office of Evangelization and Catechesis