

Christifideles

Ongoing formation
for lay ministers



Transform the way you serve with a Certificate in Parish Leadership

Christifideles Certificate for Parish Leadership

The 12-month Certificate in Parish Leadership is a comprehensive formation program designed to equip leaders with practical knowledge, leadership skills and spiritual foundation to lead thriving parish communities. Responding to the increasing complexity of parish ministry, this 100-hour certificate program integrates human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation through classroom instruction, practical parish assignments, a leadership retreat and a final project. Participants will develop skills to strengthen parish operations, foster healthy ministry teams, steward resources responsibly and advance the Church's mission of evangelization with confidence, wisdom, and faithful leadership.

This certificate is for:

Current and aspiring parish leaders, parish administrators, ministry leaders, parish staff, and dedicated volunteers who desire to strengthen their capacity for leadership and service within the Church. It is designed for individuals seeking to integrate management practices with the pastoral mission of the parish while growing in their vocation as servant leaders.

As a component of the Christifideles formation program, participants are expected to fully engage in the formation experience, including a required leadership retreat, formation days, spiritual enrichment opportunities, and other activities that support their ongoing human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral development.

Application timeline:

Opens: August 15, 2026

Application deadline: November 1, 2026

Decisions announced: December 7, 2026

Program begins: January 26, 2027

Schedule and fees:

Course Schedule:

- Online classes are on Tuesdays, from 6–8pm, and meet about twice each month. The first class begins January 26, 2027.
- In-person Christifideles Formation Days at the Chancery (Isaac Orr Conference Room, 910 Marion St., Seattle) include:
- March 13, 2027: Intercultural Training Day
- April 21, 2027: Co-Workers in the Vineyard Convocation (optional) at St. Stephen the Martyr in Renton
- May 8, 2027: In-person retreat at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center
- October 9, 2027: Fall Formation Day
- January 25, 2028: Last class and final project due
- January 29, 2028: Graduation Mass with Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

Total program fees: \$500

- 1st tuition payment (\$250):
January 6, 2027
- 2nd tuition payment (\$250):
March 15, 2027



Archdiocese
of Seattle

Course Descriptions

AREA I: Spiritual and Theological Foundations for Parish Leadership

Through a deeper exploration of the Church's understanding of leadership and administration, participants are invited to recognize parish leadership as a true ministry of service. This area examines the theology and spirituality of administration, stewardship and evangelization, helping participants integrate faith with daily leadership responsibilities. Grounded in the Church's mission, it forms leaders who can make decisions with wisdom, integrity and a commitment to building vibrant parish communities.

AREA II: Organizational Leadership and Parish Administration

Effective parish leadership requires both pastoral vision and organizational competence. This area develops the practical skills necessary to lead parish organizations by exploring governance, organizational management, team leadership, communication, conflict resolution and talent development. Participants learn to foster healthy ministry teams, strengthen parish operations, and cultivate collaborative environments where staff and volunteers can flourish in service to the Church's mission.

AREA III: Stewardship, Planning, and Resource Management

Faithful stewardship calls parish leaders to responsibly manage the people, finances and resources entrusted to them. This area introduces participants to financial reporting, budgeting, stewardship, strategic planning and responsible resource management within a parish context. Emphasizing transparency, accountability and mission-centered decision-making, this class equips leaders to align parish resources with long-term pastoral priorities and the work of evangelization.

AREA IV: Parish Mission, Engagement, and Practical Leadership

Leadership is ultimately exercised in service of the people of God. This area focuses on strengthening parish life by fostering participation, hospitality, community engagement, and active discipleship. Through practical parish assignments, a leadership retreat and an applied capstone project, participants integrate the knowledge and skills gained throughout the program into real-world ministry, preparing them to lead with confidence, collaboration, and a deep commitment to the Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel.

For questions, please contact Kimberly Abadir.

Kimberly.Abadir@seattlearch.org

Apply by November 1, 2026, [here](#)



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