

# Meet Our “Family of Faith” Catechists



We live in Charleston, IL with our daughter, Ann Marie, and our second baby on the way! Joe works at a remote company in software engineering management, while Catherine teaches part time at EIU through the Newman Catholic Center. Life with Christ is the *greatest adventure*, and that is why we are so excited to be a part of your high school students' journey seeking to know, love, and live for Him!

**Joe and Catherine Porter  
High School Catechists**



**Hello!**

We are Ben and Holly Geisler. We moved to Mattoon from Charleston after we got married earlier this summer! Ben is a nurse at Sarah Bush and Holly is the Jr. High math teacher at Neoga. We are so excited to become a part of Immaculate Conception parish by helping to form the middle schoolers in faith. We love the Catholic Faith and feel honored to have the opportunity to share the beauty and truth of our faith with others!

**Ben and Holly Geisler  
Middle School Catechists**



We are Steve and Lana Conlon. We have both been educators in Mattoon. Steve retired from Mattoon Middle School after teaching Social Studies and coaching. Lana taught at St. Mary's School and is now working with Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education.

We love the opportunity to share our Catholic faith with the children of our parish and we enjoy having the children share their faith with us.

**Steve and Lana Conlon  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechists**



**I'm looking forward to beginning my 3rd year as a catechist in our parish. My husband, Billy, and I were married at Immaculate Conception in 2019, and we were blessed with our son, Charlie, in 2022. When we aren't feeding Charlie some Goldfish crackers from our pew, my husband and I are both teachers in the Mattoon School District. It has been so much fun getting to know the families in our PSR program! Please consider joining us this fall for faith, fellowship, and, of course, donuts.**

**Ashley Manning  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechist**



**Hello!**

**My name is Ginger Douglas. I've had the pleasure of preparing students to receive their Sacraments for 5 years. I've really enjoyed my time with my students by sharing the faith and helping them to grow closer to our Lord.**

**Unfortunately, this will be my last year because of family obligations. Thank you for letting me share such a special time in your children's lives.**

**Ginger Douglas  
Sacrament Catechist**



**My name is Kristen Watson I have been a lifelong member of Immaculate Conception. My husband and I have 3 children and one grandson.**

**I am excited to help teach the children to be prepared for the sacraments. Our church is a beautiful place to have and so thankful for all it has given me and my family.**

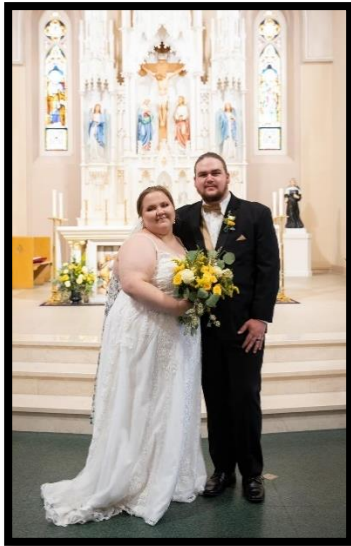
**Kristen Watson  
Sacrament Catechist**



**Hey families! My name is Katie Douglas and I am one of the catechists for K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. I am beginning my second year at Lake Land College, majoring in History and minoring in Business. When I'm not at Church, school, or hangin' out with my family at home, expect to find me at the Newman Center or Lincoln Log Cabin (in full 1840's attire!)**

**I have many fond memories of my early faith formation at home and at St. Mary's School, and I consider it an incredible gift and honor to help plant new seeds of Faith in the next generation of Christ's Church. Thank you for allowing Mollie and I to show your children the joy of Jesus!**

**Katie Douglas  
K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Catechist**



**Hi! My name is Mollie Vahling and I'm very excited to continue teaching the K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade catechism class for the third year with my co-teacher Katie Douglas.**

**I am married to Avery Vahling, and we have three cats and a dog. When I'm not at church here in Mattoon, or at the Newman Center in Charleston, I'm studying to become a Speech Pathologist at Eastern Illinois University. I've loved my time so much here at Immaculate Conception and I'm looking forward to the coming school year!**

**Mollie Vahling  
K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Catechist**



**Hello!**

**My name is Emma Farris and I am honored to be one of our Share the Word catechists. I am married to Todd and we have four children Ella, Beau, Evie, and Isla.**

**This is my second year of serving our wonderful parish and I look forward to forming little ones in the Faith in the upcoming year.**

**Emma Farris  
Share the Word**





**Hello Immaculate Conception!**

**My husband and I are Mattoon natives and have been married for 13 years. After moving around the state for 8 years, we moved back home in 2015. I have loved raising our two kids, Parker (9) and Murphy (5), in my home parish. I have also loved being a part of our Share the Word team with a great group of moms. It has been a pleasure getting to know your kiddos and help guide them in their faith! I am looking forward to another great year!**

**Megan Salmela  
Share the Word**



**Hi! My name is Angie Strohl and I am one of the Share the Word teachers. I enjoy working with the young kids at church as a nice contrast to my junior high students I teach during the school year. I am a Dieterich High School and EIU graduate. My husband and I, and our two children, live outside of Neoga.**

**Angie Strohl  
Share the Word**



**It is my privilege to work with this great group of Catechists! My husband, Jon, our three children and I, live just south of Mattoon and have been parishioners at Immaculate Conception since 2008. Please continue to pray for the success of our "Family of Faith" catechesis program.**

**Carla Will  
Director of Christian Formation**

***"Family catechesis...precedes, accompanies, and enriches all other forms of catechesis. Thus, there cannot be too great an effort on the part of Christian parents to prepare for this ministry of being their own children's catechists and to carry it out with tireless zeal."***

**Pope St. John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae***