

9th Grade Mini-Course Descriptions for 2017-2018

Fall/Winter 2017

Religion & Science

This course will look at several instances where religion and science seem to conflict and try to see how the competition has helped both. From before Galileo's heliocentric universe to Big Bang to the intelligent design vs. evolution debate, we will briefly look at the arguments and refer to scripture for guidance. We will reconcile the ultimate scientific pursuit of the "theory of everything" with the ultimate truths we gain from our faith.

Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm

October 4, October 11, October 18, October 25

Introduction to Catholic Social Teachings

Often called "the best kept secret of the Catholic Church" - the principles of social justice are rooted in the Gospel and have deep implications on how we should live as both as individuals and as a society. This course will examine the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm

October 15, October 22, October 29, Nov. 5

The Liturgical Year

Why doesn't the church year coincide with the calendar year? Ever wondered why Easter isn't the same date every year? Or, why are some days Holy? What about the priests robes? Green, white, purple - is there meaning behind that or is it just a fashion statement? All of these questions and more will be answered in this mini-course.

Mondays 7:00 – 8:30pm

November 20, Nov 27, December 4, Dec 11

Winter/Spring 2018

Life Lessons from 2 Francis

Pope Francis gets LOTS of attention in the media. Ever wonder why everyone seems so interested in Pope Francis? This mini course will introduce participants to Pope Francis and the inspiration for his chosen name, St. Francis of Assisi. What can be learned from these two men and how can those lessons be embodied by today's Catholic teen? Core values of humility, love and care and concern for the least among us will be discussed.

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm

January 17, January 24, January 31, Feb. 7

Prayer for a 21st Century Teen – Balancing Tradition and Technology

Today's teen is more "plugged in" than ever. Smartphones, snapchat, Instagram, musically - are a part of an average teen's daily routine. But what about prayer? Is prayer part of your daily routine? This course will help teens make room in their lives for prayer by introducing them to traditional Catholic prayers and devotions - but also by looking at prayer through the lens of the digital, tech-driven world.

Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm

March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25

Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels

The Gospels are the Word of God which offer us an invitation to meet Jesus. In this mini course participants will read and reflect on several encounters others had with Jesus in Biblical times. Through classroom discussions and activities students will reflect on these interactions and see how they are relevant to their everyday lives and the world around us.

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

March 19, March 26, April 9, April 16

(Please note this topic skips the week of 4/2
Easter Week/Spring Break)

Safe Environment Training (required annually) - Select 1 of the following

Wednesday, October 18th at 6pm Sunday, October 29th at 5:30pm Monday, November 20th at 6pm

Training sessions will last approximately 45 minutes and will be multi-grade sessions. Please be sure to SIGN UP for your preferred date during enrollment as space will be limited in each session.