

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Mini-Course Descriptions for 2016-2017

### **Fall/Winter 2016**

#### **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 ó 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.

**Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm**

**Sept 28, October 5, October 12, October 19**

#### **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 ó both as individuals and as a society. This course will examine the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

**Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm**

**October 16, October 23, October 30, Nov. 6**

#### **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.

**Mondays 7:00 – 8:30pm**

**November 14, Nov 21, Nov 28, December 5**

(Also reserve 12/12 in the event a snow makeup is necessary)

### **Winter/Spring 2017**

#### **Life Lessons from 2 Francises**

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 18, January 25, February 1, Feb. 8**

(Also reserve 2/15 in the event a snow makeup is necessary)

#### **Prayer for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teen – Balancing Traditional and Technology**

Today's teen is more "plugged in" than ever. Smartphones, snapchat, Instagram, musically ó 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 ó but also by looking at prayer through the lens of the digital, tech-driven world ó

**Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm**

**March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26**

#### **Faith Lessons from the Chronicles of Narnia**

Teens who select this course must have read or seen a film version of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". This mini course will look at several key scenes and characters from the CS Lewis classic to explore faith themes like temptation, hope, change and more.

**Mondays 7:00-8:30pm**

**March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10**

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

**Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm    Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm    Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 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 ó space will be limited in each session.