

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Mini-Course Descriptions for 2018-2019

### **Fall/Winter 2018**

#### **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**

**October 3, October 10, October 17, October 24**

#### **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**

**November 4, Nov 11, Nov 18, Nov 25**

#### **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 19, Nov 26, December 3, Dec 10**

### **Winter/Spring 2019**

#### **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 16, January 23, January 30, Feb. 6**

#### **Prayer for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teen – Balancing Tradition 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 3, March 10, March 17, March 24**

#### **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 25, April 1, April 8, April 15**

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

**Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm    Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm    Monday, November 19<sup>th</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.