

8th Grade Mini-Course Descriptions for 2023-2024

Fall/Winter 2023

Session 1: You've Got a Friend in Me

Do you consider Jesus your friend? When it comes to being a good friend, and choosing good friends – Jesus is the perfect example. This course will look at what Jesus teaches us about friendship to see what messages teens can find on guiding and building their own relationships.

Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm

**October 1, October 8, October 15,
October 22**

Session 2: Parables of Jesus

Jesus often used parables (short, simple stories) to teach important spiritual truths. This mini-course will review some familiar parables and introduce participants to some of the less familiar parables.

Using a variety of resources: scripture, video, audio, games and more; teens will break open the parables to learn how the lessons can be applied in their lives today.

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm

**October 11, October 18, October 25,
November 1**

Session 3: I Believe: Understanding the Creed

Before you can decide whether or not you call yourself “Catholic” it is important to understand exactly what Catholics believe. This course will break down the Creed and look more closely at exactly what Catholics believe.

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

**November 27, December 4, December 11,
December 18**

Winter/Spring 2024

Session 4: Exploring the Sacraments

This mini-course will offer teens an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the Sacraments. The course will include exploring the Rites of the Sacraments as well as the signs and symbols used by the Church in Sacramental celebrations.

Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm

**January 17, January 24, January 31,
February 7**

Session 5: Not all Fruits Grow on Trees

When we are open to the Holy Spirit, we can grow as followers of Jesus. We see the effect of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives in special qualities and attitudes that we develop as we grow in faith and in our daily lives—these are called the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm

February 25, March 3, March 10, March 17

Session 6: Miracles of Jesus

Some of the most memorable depictions of Jesus revolve around the miracles that He performed. Participants will examine the scripture of Jesus' Miracles and view video retellings of the Miracles to learn more about Jesus and to be inspired to follow His example.

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

February 26, March 4, March 11, March 18

Safe Environment Training (required annually) – Additional Information about this Training will be coming. There will be a series of dates for youth to select from to complete the training.