

9th Grade Mini-Course Descriptions for 2023-2024

Fall/Winter 2023

Session 1: Works of Mercy

This mini-course will offer teens the opportunity to deepen their faith by learning about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Teens will be encouraged to brainstorm practical ways that they can incorporate the Works of Mercy into their daily lives as a way to grow as a disciple.

Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm

October 1, October 8, October 15, October 22

Session 2: Prayer for a 21st Century Teen – Balancing Tradition and Technology

Today's teen is more "plugged in" than ever. Smartphones, snapchat, Instagram, TikTok – are typically a part of a teen's daily routine. But what about prayer? Is prayer part of your daily routine? This course will encourage teens to make room in their lives for prayer by introducing them to a variety of prayer styles so that they can discover what works best for them to grow in faith.

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm

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

Session 3: Encountering 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, participants 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

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

Winter/Spring 2024

Session 4: 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 some days are 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.

Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm

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

Session 5: 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 – both as individuals and as a society. This course will examine the seven major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

Sundays 6:30 – 8:00pm

February 25, March 3, March 10, March 17

Session 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 the 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

February 26, March 4, March 11, March 18

Safe Environment Training (required annually) – Additional Information about this Training will be posted at a later date