

HIGH SCHOOL CCD CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FRESHMAN

FALL – CATHOLIC IDENTITY – VALUING OUR TRADITION

This new Minicourse (Copyright 2006) is an overview for ninth graders of the foundations of the Catholic faith. It enables a class of students with varied religious formation backgrounds to pursue a unifying study of the Catholic heritage. This course uses Scripture, tradition, and Church documents to introduce the basic content of Catholicism.

WINTER – SACRAMENTS – LIVING OUR FAITH

This course discusses the seven sacraments with attention to both historical context and current liturgical practice. It furthers students' understanding, ownership, and appreciation of the sacraments as ritual experiences that witness to their faith commitment.

SOPHOMORE

FALL – CONFIRMED IN A FAITHFUL COMMUNITY – A SENIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION PROCESS

The third edition of Confirmed in a Faithful Community includes major revisions and updates and carries with it the firm conviction that Confirmation preparation for adolescents can be theologically sound, developmentally appropriate, and pedagogically exciting. As a senior high Confirmation process grounded in the vision of initiation established by the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the goals of this program are to guide the parish toward an effective celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation and to help Confirmation candidates do the following:

- † **Embrace** their baptismal call and experience deeper initiation into a welcoming Church community*
- † **Grow** in a knowledge of the person, mission, and message of Jesus*
- † **Understand** the nature of the Church and appreciate the role of the sacraments in the Church's life and in their own lives*
- † **Recognize** the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the life of the Church*
- † **Understand** the rite of Confirmation and prepare to celebrate it in a meaningful way*

WINTER – FAITH – DEVELOPING AN ADULT SPIRITUALITY

This newly revised Minicourse (copyright 2005) assists high school students to bring together into an integrated whole all the pieces of their religious education. The unit helps students examine what they believe about God and the Church, why they believe this, and how they can best live according to their faith. We will also incorporate a look at cultural influence within Catholicism. This includes a field trip to St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in Dayton noting the African-American influence followed by trip to Beth Abraham Synagogue and a presentation from their Rabbi referencing the Judaic influence within Catholicism.

JUNIOR

FALL – PERSONHOOD – GROWING IN WHOLENESS AND HOLINESS

This unit provides opportunities for young people to get in touch with themselves as persons. Lessons help students to explore personal identity, choices, emotions, psychological development, and growth in faith. Students become involved in processes of meaningful discovery of their own uniqueness and contributions.

WINTER - CHRISTIAN MORALITY

Catechetical Sessions on Christian Morality is a rich course that gives young people a solid grounding in the foundations of Christian morality to add to what they have already received in their family and in their faith community. In the moral life, our heart tells us we want to learn to dance the right way, God's way. We have to use our head to learn the meaning of the commandments, which are the basic steps. We listen to the Beatitudes, which are the music that makes the steps come alive. But to best practice the moral life, we have to tap into the gifts God has placed within each one of us: the virtues, forgiveness, and grace.

SENIOR

FALL - JUSTICE – FULFILLING THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL MISSION

Enables the students to connect daily living with Catholic moral principles/values grounded in respect for human life. All the sessions process to immerse youth in a justice issue, educate them on the "why" of injustice, help them reflect on the issue from a faith perspective, and support them in choosing a faith response to combat injustice.

WINTER – COMMITMENTS & OTHER RELIGIONS

All the religion classes in the world are pointless if students do not gain the skills they need to live out their faith as responsible adults. High school students are challenged to begin to find their place in the world and integrate their faith with real-life choices. Students will examine their vocational calling. This is in response to our changing times and society in which young adults often delay long-term choices. We will also study the similarities and differences among major world religions compared to Catholicism.