



RELIGION 8th Grade Syllabus

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Theology of the Body (1st Trimester)

Course Overview

Theology of the Body (TOB) by Saint Pope John Paul II has 6 units. Each unit has 5 lessons so it will last roughly a week as some of the lessons will take 2 days within our 45-minute period.

TOB follows this pattern:

Day 1 The Lesson

Day 2 Kalos (Greek for beautiful, good, excellent, worthy)

Day 3 Discussion

Day 4 Experience

Day 5 Beyond the Classroom

(See following pages for the themes and goals of each unit)

Graded categories

1st Trimester grades will be based on:

- +participation
- +memory work of Anima Christi
- +journal completion
- +note taking
- +quizzes after each unit
- +final test

Parents can help their middle schooler by helping him/her memorize Anima Christi (listed below) and study for the quizzes and tests.

Quizzes will occur after each unit

the test will be given on or around November 2/3.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.
Permit me not to be separated from you.
From the wicked foe, defend me.
At the hour of my death, call me
And bid me come to you
That with your saints I may praise you
For ever and ever. Amen.

Confirmation (2nd Trimester)

Course Overview

The Confirmation curriculum is Chosen by Ascension. This program has been used by St. Jerome the past few years to prepare ninth graders for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is my desire to switch over the confirmation age at St. Jerome from ninth graders to eighth graders. This is the transition year so there will be ninth and eighth graders being prepared for this sacrament. This curriculum will be taught to all 8th graders regardless if they want to receive this Sacrament or not (there will be separate paperwork for more details). It is an amazing program written as 24 lessons which will be taught from roughly November 7-December 21. (Any changes to this schedule will be communicated to you).

Course Sequence

Lesson 1: Why am I here?
Lesson 2: What makes me happy?
Lesson 3: What's your story, God?
Lesson 4: How do I know God is real?
Lesson 5: Who is Jesus?
Lesson 6: Why be Catholic?
Lesson 7: Where am I going?
Lesson 8: How do I get there?
Lesson 9: When did my journey begin?
Lesson 10: Why tell my sins to a priest?
Lesson 11: How does God help when it hurts?
Lesson 12: Who is the Holy Spirit?
Lesson 13: What does the Holy Spirit do for me?
Lesson 14: Why have I been chosen?
Lesson 15: Why do I have to go to Mass?
Lesson 16: What does it mean to say I do?
Lesson 17: Who's calling?
Lesson 18: Are you talking to me?
Lesson 19: Who is Mary?
Lesson 20: What would Jesus do?
Lesson 21: Do I have what it takes?
Lesson 22: Why wait?
Lesson 23: How do I build the kingdom?
Lesson 24: Where do I go from here?

The concepts of this curriculum span the whole of Catholic Teaching with heavy emphasis on the Sacraments. If you have any questions about Catholicism, becoming Catholic, the content of this curriculum,

or Confirmation questions please let me know anytime via face-to-face or email sberthiaume@stjeromeschool.org For those who wish to be confirmed more paperwork will follow.

Graded Categoies

2nd Trimester grades will be split between this curriculum work and the next curriculum to be used, Faith and Life. Grades will be based on:

- +participation
- +note taking
- +quizzes
- +a test

Quizzes will be spaced evenly throughout the curriculum and the test will be a final given before Christmas break (December 21).

Faith and Life (2nd and 3rd Trimester)

Course Overview

The third curriculum being taught to 8th grade is Our Life in the Church, the Faith and Life Series by Ignatius Press. This curriculum has a lot of overlap from the Chosen Confirmation curriculum so the 8th graders will be asked in this series to do group and project work. There are 26 lessons taught in 1-2 class periods.

Course Sequence

1. Christ's Abiding Presence
2. The Birth of the Church
3. The Nature of the Church
4. The Teaching of the Church
5. Authority in the Church
6. The Visible Hierarchical Church
7. The Church Sanctifying-Sacraments
8. The Church Sanctifying-Worship
9. Mary
10. The Communion of Saints
11. Saints in our History-1st Thousand Years
12. Saints in our History-2nd Thousand Years
13. Separated Brethren
14. The Universal Call to Holiness
15. The Life of Virtue
16. The Works of Mercy and Happiness
17. Vocations
18. The Lay Apostolate
19. Marriage and Family
20. The Christian in the World
21. Law and conscience
22. The Church and Social Order
23. Prayer
24. The Sacramental Life
25. Death and Judgement
26. The End of the World;

Graded Categories

2nd / 3rd Trimester grades will be based on:

- +Participation
- +Note taking
- +Memory work
- +Group work cooperation
- +Project completion
- +Papers
- +Quizzes
- +Final test

The following papers will be assigned:

Church Father or Doctor (1 page)

Marian Title report (1 page)

Saint report (paper complete with introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs)

Why should we be virtuous? (1 page)

What do you think God is calling you to do? (1 page)

Memory work includes: The Nicene Creed, Prayer choice

Prayer choice: Prayer to St. Michael, Memorare, Act of Contrition, or Hail Holy Queen.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial through the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from Heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Amen.

Along with the explained curriculum concepts and grades, the 8th graders will participate in a variety of other experiences along their faith journey at St. Jerome which include:

- A virtue of the month (Pride awards will be given to 1 eighth grader each month)
- Mass Readings
- Mass Buddies (Kindergarten partners)
- Penance Services (Advent/Lent)
- Adoration
- Practice and performing the Lenten tradition of Seven Last Words

Class Expectations

Students at St. Jerome will demonstrate **P.R.I.D.E.**

P_{ersonal Best}

Students will come to school knowing this is a safe and caring place in which they can succeed in academics and the way they will become productive citizens and people with high morals. Missed work will be made up by going to the "What did I miss?" folders.

Students will come prepared to class with the needed materials to finish daily tasks.

Students will have a growth mindset, the idea that they can do anything if they keep trying.

R_{espect}

Students will be encouraging with what they say and do toward each other. If it is not going to build up another person, they will stay silent. Everyone is made in God's image to be good, true and beautiful and we will treat our teachers and peers that way.

I_{ntegrity}

Students will choose courage over comfort, what is right over what is fun, fast or easy, and to practice our values rather than simply professing them. Brene Brown

D_{etermination}

Student will understand that mistakes are a part of learning and they must consider revisions and feedback as a means to get better and be better.

E_{xcellence}

Students will work to excel in all academic areas, whether it is easy or hard, as St. Jerome is a school with high academic rigor.

Students will also strive to be what they were called to be by God, good and holy. And to understand that, though we fall, we are blessed with the communities we live in and the school we attend to lift us back up because even Jesus fell 3 times on his way to salvation.

Please see the student handbook for more information. Consequences to not uphold P.R.I.D.E. will be determined by Mrs. Gattman and Mrs. B

Other Class Expectations

>Email is the best way to get in touch with me: sberthiaume@stjeromeschool.org

>Late is expected to be turned in as 0 pts will be awarded if it remains in your possession. Work will lose points as each day passes.

>Bathrooms will be used before/after class. Class periods are only 45 minutes long and students will be engaged throughout the whole period.

>No cell phones (or any other personal devices) are allowed in the classrooms or to be used during school hours. If a cell phone is out, it will be confiscated and returned to a parent.

>Students will be in class on time (unless excused by Mrs. B) everyday.

8th Grade Theology of the Body

TOB **Unit 1: Vocation and Gift**

This unit provides an introduction to the idea of vocation. Central to understanding “vocation” is to see its gift character, that is, it is not an isolated or self-enclosed decision I make on my own. Rather, it is our response to a call from God, decided together with others, and is for others (as they are for me). In other words, our vocation opens us to the world and is a way we live our relationship to God, ourselves, others and the world.

The concepts in this unit:

- My path in life is not something I create totally on my own, for myself alone.
- Holiness is love of God and love of neighbor.
- How we know what the word “love” really means.
- Making vows doesn’t inhibit your freedom; freedom and forms aren’t opposites.

Saint Isaac Jogues (Feast October 19)

Unit 2: Virginity for the Sake of the Kingdom

In TOB, John Paul II wrote not only about marriage, but also virginity for the sake of the kingdom. Patterned on the life of Christ, those who are called to this state of life renounce marriage “for the sake of the kingdom” and live two important things: first, in giving up everything they have time to work to build up the kingdom of God in an undivided way; second, their lives are a sign of the future resurrection, a reminder to all of where we are heading and what is most important in life.

The concepts in this unit:

- The idea of virginity for the sake of the kingdom is modeled on the life of Christ.
- Those who live virginity for the sake of the kingdom aren’t single: because they take vows, they are spouses and parents in a spiritual way.
- Why someone would choose to live this way of life.
- To be introduced to the idea (very much obscured in our day) that one can have a full, fruitful and happy life even in giving up marriage and becoming consecrated.

Saint Benedict of Norcia (Feast July 11)

Unit 3: The Sacrament of Marriage

In this unit, the student will see the progression of marriage from the beginning (Adam and Eve) through the Old Covenant (Law of Moses) to Christ who elevated marriage to a sacrament. In order to answer difficult cultural questions about marriage, the foundation presented here is important. In order to defend Christian marriage, one must know what it is. In taking vows and entering the sacrament of marriage, one is entering a reality larger than oneself and one is able to love with a new kind of strength and completeness.

The concepts in this unit:

- Marriage is not just a human contract
- Why someone would make vows and why vows are important.
- Why the Church teaches that a sacramental marriage is permanent until death.
- Sacramental marriage participates in Christ’s love for the Church and is therefore given new strength and is indissoluble.

Saints Zelig and Louis Martin (Feast July 12)

Unit 4: St. Paul on Flesh and Spirit

In this unit, the students will look at a difficult passage in St. Paul and how JP II resolves it in TOB. This is an important theme for two reasons: first, it is good for the students to understand and grapple with Scripture, and not just gloss over passages that may be confusing. Second, it is a passage that brings into relief the Christian understanding of the body, sin, concupiscence and redemption.

The concepts in this unit:

- The body and my natural inclinations aren't bad, but they need to be rightly ordered.
- Sin and concupiscence disrupt the order and harmony of natural desire; sometimes I feel pulled in a way contrary to my own good.
- What it means to live with purity of heart.
- The special role and help of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life.

Saint Paul of Tarsus (feast June 29)

Unit 5: Domination vs. Gift

In this unit, the foundational building blocks are laid for the student to be able to see the reasons behind the moral teaching of the Church. Instead of a random list of dos and don'ts, the moral teaching of the Church is linked to the nature of reality and the true good of the human person. To say that creation is a gift is radical and definitive. It means man does not invent reality, but he receives it, and it is the special role of the Church to help man discover reality.

The concepts in this unit:

- What it means to say "creation is a gift."
- I receive reality, I don't create it.
- Man is the steward and minister of the world and cannot simply do whatever he wants.
- Natural limits are not always bad, but can be helpful guides in doing what we ought.

Saint Hildegard of Bingen (feast September 17)

Unit 6: Resurrection of the Body

In this unit, the students will see how the doctrine of the resurrection confirms the importance of the body in man's personal identity; without the body man in some way remains "incomplete." In addition, this unit will help the student begin to think more about the next life and how that can change the way one chooses to live on earth.

The concepts in this unit:

- This life is not our final horizon
- Death is a tragic event, but it's not the end of existence.
- The body remains significant even after death.
- Christ's saving work already begun is perfectly fulfilled in heaven.
- The generosity of God in creating the world continues in the gift of redemption.

Saint John Paul II (feast October 22)