

**Diocese of St. Augustine  
Parish High School Religion Curriculum  
Based on the  
Catholic High School Curriculum (2007)  
2010-2011**

**Course Title:** Introduction to Sacred Scripture

**Grade Level:** Any level grades 9 -12

**Description:**

*This introduction to the Sacred Scriptures centers on the literature of the ancient Israelite community and the writings of the New Testament. Students will have the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the Bible as a historical document interpreted in the light of faith. The central themes of election and covenant will be addressed in the Old Testament portion of the classes. Students will come to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the message of Jesus and his teachings in the New Testament portion. The primary goal of studying the Sacred Scriptures is to come to know the One to whom all Scripture bears witness --- Jesus Christ.*

**Goals:**

1. Involve the student in ten (10) hours of community service in order to integrate the concept of respect for all creation with the Gospel call for service to others.
2. Enable the student to acquire a critical approach to the literature of the ancient Israelite community, which came to be held as Sacred Scripture by the Jewish and Christian religious communities.
3. Enable the student to understand the historical development of the Bible as we have it today including the concepts of: oral tradition, written authorship, canonicity, and the process of Biblical translation.
4. To help the student understand the Bible as the Word of God, and enable the student to distinguish between various methods of Biblical interpretation.
5. Enable the student to understand the Catholic view regarding the Bible and Tradition as the two foundational stones of Catholic doctrine and worship.
6. Help the student understand and appreciate our Jewish roots.
7. Expose the student to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and assist the student in applying it in everyday life.
8. Provide the student with opportunities to encounter Christ personally through various forms of prayer.
9. Provide the student with a foundation for moral living based on the values of the Gospel.

**Major Concepts:**

**The content should include but not be limited to the following:**

1. Modern scriptural scholarship with introduction to Church documents on the subject
2. Outline of Old and New Testaments
3. Various types of literature within the Sacred Scriptures
4. The forming of the canon of Scripture
5. Analysis of the main characters, structures and plots found in the narratives of the Old Testament
6. Comparison of the themes and structures of the four gospels
7. A basic understanding of human dignity and rights and our responsibility involving the dignity of others as presented in the Sacred Scriptures

**Objectives:**

**Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:**

1. Identify the Bible as a collection of writings compiled over hundreds of years by many different authors and deemed to be the inerrant and inspired Word of God.
2. List and explain the various types of literature found in both the Old and New Testaments.
3. Explain the concepts of oral tradition, inspiration and revelation as understood from Catholic theology and documents.
4. Explain the origin of the four Gospels, including the sources used by each.
5. Describe the impact of the Bible on Western culture.
6. Explain in brief form the history of the Jewish people.
7. Describe the methods used in modern academic study of the New Testament.
8. Trace salvation history through the Old and New Testaments
9. Explain how the canon of Scripture was formed.
10. Parallel and differentiate the call to discipleship of the Early Church with their own call to discipleship.
11. Explain the relationship between Scripture and Tradition in the Catholic Church.
12. Summarize the important events that led to the separation of Christianity from Judaism.

- 13.** Summarize the nature of apocalyptic literature (Book of Revelation) and its significance to the early Christians as well as to modern day Christians.
- 14.** Discuss how a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is important in their lives.
- 15.** Experience an appreciation for reading and studying the Sacred Scriptures.

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**COURSE TITLE:** Catholic Belief and Doctrine

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9-10

**DESCRIPTION:**

*The course includes an overview of the basic teachings of the Catholic faith including beliefs in the existence of God, the life of Jesus, the Trinity, and other selected doctrines of the Catholic Church. This course will provide an overview the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds. This course strives to help students appreciate the beliefs, rituals, moral vision, and prayer models of the Catholic Church.*

**GOALS:**

1. To involve the student in ten (10) hours of Christian service in order to promote respect for others and for creation.
2. To enable the student to become more familiar with the teachings of the Catholic Church (her creed and doctrines) and their place in the priority of truths, namely Catholic Revelation, Tradition and Scripture, Trinity, Church, and afterlife.
3. To assist the student in understanding his/her role as a baptized member of the Church whose call it is to evangelize others.
4. To provide the student with the philosophical and theological foundations of faith.

**MAJOR CONCEPTS/COURSE CONTENT:**

**The content should include but not be limited to the following:**

1. A presentation of faith in God in a clear and understandable fashion that can serve as a solid theological foundation upon which the student can build a life
2. A focus on the nature of God as revealed in the biblical texts, namely as loving Father and Creator
3. An exploration of the Catholic proclamation of Jesus Christ, as Lord and the Incarnate Son of God
4. An exploration of the mystery of Jesus' humanity and divinity as revealed in the New Testament
5. A presentation of the significance of the Paschal Mystery and the meaning of Christ's Resurrection and the Second Coming

6. An analysis of the belief in the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, to include the themes: names and images of the Spirit, the Spirit's presence in salvation history, and how the Spirit continues to be at work in the Church and world today
7. An exploration of the term "church" as both mystery and sacrament to an understanding of "images" and "models" of the Church
8. An analysis of the mystery of the Catholic Church focusing on the four marks of the Church stated in the Nicene Creed: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
9. A presentation of the Catholic teaching on the communion of saints, with particular emphasis on Mary, Mother of God
10. A presentation of the Catholic Church's teaching on Eschatology to include the central themes, such as the meaning of life and death from a Catholic perspective, Catholic teaching on heaven, purgatory and hell, and the Last Judgment

### **OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:**

1. Explain the teaching of the Catholic Church on Divine Revelation.
2. Describe the Catholic understanding of God and his relationship to us.
3. Explain the fundamental doctrine of the Incarnation.
4. Summarize the key mysteries of Jesus' life and what they reveal about Jesus.
5. Illustrate their understanding of Church teaching on Christ's resurrection and the Second Coming.
6. Discover the presence of the Holy Spirit in their own lives and identify how the Spirit is manifested in their hearts and in the world.
7. Describe their understanding of Church as both a mystery and a sacrament.
8. Demonstrate their call as People of God to celebrate worship, proclaim the Gospel, perform service, and participate in community.
9. Identify and explain the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
10. Illustrate their understanding of sainthood and their relationship to all the members of the faithful, living and dead.
11. State the meaning of life and death from a Catholic perspective.
12. Explain Catholic teaching on heaven, hell, purgatory, and the Last Judgment.
13. Grow in their awareness that the person is not only sacred, but also social. People have the right and duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

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**COURSE TITLE:** Morality

**GRADE LEVEL:** 11-12

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides a foundation for morality from a Christian perspective and in light of Catholic teaching. Contemporary moral issues and concerns will be discussed. The teachings of Scripture, Tradition, Jesus, and the Church provide the basis for a moral decision-making process which students are encouraged to use in their real life moral issues.

**GOALS:**

1. Involve the student in a minimum of ten (10) hours of community service in order to apply Gospel values and to integrate respect for others and respect for creation in his/her life.
2. Promote a thorough catechesis on the *Gospel of Life* so the *respect for life* from conception until natural death is honored in personal behavior, in public policy, and in the expressed values and attitudes of our society.
3. Learn how to acquire and follow a *well-formed conscience* in personal and social life, clarifying current *religious and moral questions in the light of faith*, and cultivating a Christian discernment of the ethical implications of developments in the socio-cultural order.
4. Study the *Ten Commandments*, the *Beatitudes*, and the moral catechesis of the apostolic teachings, and live in accord with them.
5. Understand the meaning and nature of sin and the power of God's grace to overcome it.
6. Identify ways to respond to the moral challenges that face all of us today.
7. Incorporate prayer and spirituality as essential dimensions of Christian moral decision-making.

**MAJOR CONCEPTS/COURSE CONTENT:**

**The content should include but not be limited to the following:**

1. Creation of humanity in God's image/likeness
2. Natural Law
3. Sin: original, mortal, venial, social
4. Moral law (e.g.-Decalogue, Beatitudes, and Golden Rule)
5. Moral decision-making
6. Conscience development

7. Integrity in the marketplace
8. Issues of violence vs. peace
9. Contemporary moral issues
10. Prayer
11. Grace, virtue, vice, and temptation
12. Effects of sin

**OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:**

1. Describe God's creation of humankind in God's image and what implications that reality has on our self-understanding.
2. Develop an understanding of how sin breaks down our inner integrity and affects our capacity for relationships.
3. Define sin, Original sin; distinguish between types of personal sin such as mortal, venial, and social sin. This will include the effects of sin such as shame, guilt, and the need to confess sin.
4. Distinguish between law and principles and to describe natural law and Biblical foundations for moral laws.
5. Demonstrate the positive and negative requirements of each of the commandments found in the Decalogue.
6. Describe the moral values taught by Jesus in the Beatitudes and apply them to specific moral questions.
7. Identify key terms and concepts found in Catholic morality and Tradition such as God's grace, virtue, and corresponding terms, vice, and temptation.
8. Describe conscience formation and human growth and development and the role of intentions and circumstances in making moral decisions and demonstrate the ability to formulate a thoughtful analysis of moral issues.
9. Experience various forms of prayer as a tool to assist them in making right moral decisions, and as a means to a deeper level of discipleship in the Lord.

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**COURSE TITLE:** Liturgy and Sacraments

**GRADE LEVEL:** Any level

**DESCRIPTION:**

*This course is designed to help students explore the nature and purpose of liturgy and how this is expressed in the seven sacraments. Students will be provided with an overview of each of the seven sacraments with special emphasis on how the theology of each has developed from New Testament time until now. Students will also be led through the liturgical year and be shown ways that the Church celebrates her salvation history throughout the year. Students will become familiar with the rituals of the Church as well as the various symbols used within the sacraments. A portion of the class will be used to explore the various devotional prayer opportunities that are available to Catholics.*

**GOALS:**

1. Involve the student in a minimum of ten (10) hours of community service in order to apply Gospel values and to integrate respect for others and respect for creation in his/her life.
2. Offer students an opportunity to explore the rich tradition of sacramental theology and practice that is fundamental to Catholicism.
3. Familiarize students with the basic concepts of liturgy.
4. Present to students a diverse selection of the forms of Christian prayer
5. Familiarize students with the concept of ritual, especially the rituals of each of the seven sacraments

**MAJOR CONCEPTS/COURSE CONTENT:**

**The content should include, but not be limited to the following:**

1. An analysis of the nature, meaning, and purpose of sacraments in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. An introduction to what the sacraments reveal about God, and how the sacraments enable our participation in God's divine plan
3. An analysis of the difference between signs and symbols
4. An analysis of the nature and purpose of liturgy to include a discussion of the liturgical calendar, the importance of Scripture in the liturgy, and how, when and where liturgy is celebrated
5. An analysis of the history, meaning, and symbolism of each of the seven sacraments



**OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:**

1. Identify and explain the concepts underlying the sacramental vision: sacramental awareness, grace, symbols, rituals, and prayer.
2. Describe the relationships between Jesus, the Church, and the seven sacraments.
3. Identify major developments in the history of the sacraments in general and of the seven sacraments in particular.
4. Articulate the realities of human life celebrated by each of the seven sacraments.
5. Identify the major symbols used in each of the seven sacraments, and the key aspects of each ritual.
6. Explain Catholic doctrine on the sacraments.
7. Explain and distinguish the roles of the laity and the ordained in liturgical celebrations and Christian mission.
8. Identify and give examples of popular piety and devotion that help believers express and strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.
9. Experience praying the Liturgy of the Hours.
10. Discuss the changes to the liturgy that occurred after the Second Vatican Council.
11. Know the various important solemnities, feasts and memorials of the liturgical year as well as the main seasons of the liturgical year.
12. Identify the need and purpose of liturgy in the life of a Catholic Christian.

Approved May 17, 2011  
Bishop Victor Galeone

## Glossary of Terms

**Apocalyptic/apocalypticism:** (Gk *apokalypsis*: revelation or uncovering) A movement that was widespread in the Jewish world between 600 B.C. and A.D. 200, which attempted to discern God's intention for the immediate future. With roots in Old Testament prophecy, apocalyptic literature is preoccupied with the power of sin and the hold that sin has on the earth. The prophecies of apocalyptic literature show the fight of good versus evil, with God, the bearer of good prevailing. The literature gave hope to the Jewish people in their trials and tribulations.

**Canon, Canon of Scripture, Canonicity:** (Gk *kanon* rule or measure) A frequently used term(s) within the Catholic Church. When used to speak about Scripture, it refers to those books of the Bible received by the Church as authentically inspired and normative for the Faith (CCC 120)

**Catechism:** A book containing the truths of the Catholic Faith. The recent Catechism of the Catholic Church was commissioned by Blessed John Paul II and published in 1992. Abbreviated CCC.

**Catholic versus catholic:** (Gk *katholikos*) When capitalized, a term first used by St. Ignatius of Antioch to refer specifically to the members, the churches, the clergy and the teachings of the Church founded by Jesus Christ and given to the Apostles. When the 'c' is left lower case, it refers to the adjective *catholic* meaning universal or worldwide. (CCC 830-838)

**Communion of Saints:** The ninth article of the Apostles' Creed, it states that there is a spiritual union that exists between the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory and the faithful living on earth. (CCC 946-962)

**Covenant:** A solemn promise, fortified by an oath, concerning future action. In both the Old Testament as well as the New Testament, there is reference to this in the relationship between God and God's people. (CCC 610-613, 2060-2063)

**Divine Revelation:** God's activity in making Himself and His purposes known to humankind through Christ, the prophets and the Apostles. (CCC 35-38)

**Doctrine:** Common teachings of the Church regarding faith and morals given by Jesus Christ to the Apostles. There are a variety of levels of doctrine. (CCC 5, 9-11)

**Dogma:** A teaching of the Church, held as revealed by God and therefore binding on the faithful, that is revealed implicitly or explicitly by solemn declaration. (CCC 88-90)

**Election, Elect:** According to Scripture, those chosen before all time by God to live with him in holiness.

**Eschatology:** (Gk *eschatos* last or last things) Christian doctrines and theology concerning the end time. These include the Second Coming of Christ (*parousia*), the resurrection, judgment, heaven, hell, purgatory, etc. (CCC 676, 1186, 2771, 2776)

**Gospel of Life:** Title and topic of the 1995 encyclical of Blessed John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* a call to respect, protect, love and serve every human life.

**Incarnate, incarnation:** Phrase used to describe Jesus Christ or the dogma that in the union of the divine nature of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity with human nature, the son of God assumed our humanity, body and soul, and was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to dwell in our midst in order to accomplish the work of our redemption. (CCC 461-463)

**Inerrant, inerrancy:** the absence of error, term usually applied to the Scripture as the revealed Word of God, which teaches “firmly, faithfully and without error...that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided in the Sacred Scriptures.” (*Dei Verbum* #11) CCC 107)

**Inspired, inspiration of Scripture:** (Latin *inspirare* to breathe into, Gk *theopneustos* God breathed) The influence that God exercises over human writers to communicate through them His divine revelation. The New Testament attests that “All Scripture is inspired by God” (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pt 1:19-21, 3:15-15, Jn 20:31) See also quotation under inerrancy above) (CCC 76, 81, 105-108, 111)

**Laity:** All who have received the Sacrament of Baptism but who are not in Holy Orders or in some religious state of life approved by the Church. (CCC 897-913)

**Liturgical calendar:** Also known as the church year, it consists of the cycle of liturgical seasons in the Church which determines when feast days are to be observed, which Scriptures are to be read, which liturgical colors are worn. The liturgical year celebrates Christ active within the Church.

**Liturgy:** (Latin *liturgia* from Gk *leitourgia*: public service) The public worship of the Church, including the rites and ceremonies of the Mass and sacraments.

**Oral Tradition:** The first stage of the writing of the Bible, the faith testimony of the believers shared with one another and passed down for future generations. Eventually, oral tradition became the written Word. (CCC 1126)

**Paschal Mystery:** The passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, commemorated at each Mass. (CC 571-658)

**Purgatory:** The state of cleansing for one who dies in God’s friendship, but who still has sins for which to atone. Neither the nature nor the duration of purgatory is defined in Catholic dogma. The faithful are encouraged to pray for those in purgatory.

**Ritual:** A liturgical ceremony performed with words, gestures, and sacred objects under the direction of the Holy See.

**Sign:** Something that gives direction but, more importantly, points beyond itself to some spiritual reality that may not be attained easily without visible assistance. Signs may be gestures, actions, vessels or art. The sacraments are referred to as signs as they both cause and effect grace. (CCC 1146-1148)

**Symbol:** (Gk *symbolon*: sign) A token, pledge or sign by which we can experience some reality through another reality. A symbol in the religious sense, in particular in the liturgy, is cognitive and evocative. Symbols bid us to go beyond what our senses tell us is present, to a deeper and richer meaning.

**Theology:** Disciplined reflection, carried on in the light of faith, concerning the whole body of revealed and human knowledge. Sometimes, more simply stated, "Faith seeking understanding."

**Tradition versus tradition:** When capitalized, the body of essential truths of the Catholic Church passed down as living and lived faith of the whole Church. When not capitalized, a practice or activity of the Church...a particular way of doing something.

**Written Authorship:** Attributing the writing of a particular book of the Bible to a particular human author. In other words, God inspired the work, but who put the words on paper.

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