

6th Grade Religion – Old Testament

Course Overview: The 6th Grade Religion class will center on an in depth study of the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the account of God’s relationship with humanity as started with the people of Israel. Our Jewish ancestors are the foundation for our Catholic faith and therefore it is important that our students study the Old Testament in order to truly understand how Christianity came to be. Because the Old Testament is very large, we will particularly focus on those books which deal with the history of the Jewish people.

- Even though the Old Testament is the story of the Jewish people, we as a class will study it in such a way that it reflects and reinforces our Catholic faith and tradition.
- Other religion topics will include the Liturgical Calendar and Liturgical Seasons.

Textbook: All Religion students will be receiving *The Compass Bible for Catholic Teens* (version translation: New American Bible [NAB]) as their textbook for the class.

7th Grade Religion – New Testament

Course Overview: The 7th Grade Religion class will be a continuation of the 6th Grade Religion class. It will center on an in depth study of the Bible, particularly the New Testament. The New Testament is the account of God’s relationship with humanity, particularly in our encounter with Jesus Christ.

Topics will focus on:

- It is through Jesus by which God has a special loving relationship with humanity and brings us close to himself.
- Christ is the center of the Church and it is in knowing the accounts of the New Testament that we can come to understand the foundations for our Church and of our faith.
- Alongside the study of the New Testament, students will study and begin to be prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation throughout the year.
- **Note: All Catholic Students will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 8th Grade; however, the academic preparation for the Sacrament will begin in class this year.**

Textbook: All Religion students will be receiving *The Compass Bible for Catholic Teens* (version translation: New American Bible [NAB]) as their textbook for the class.

Eighth Grade Religion – The Study of Church History

Course Overview: The students will study the history of the Catholic Church. Over two thousand years ago, Jesus carried out the mission that he received from his Father. His threefold mission was to preach, to teach and to heal. To preach meant to proclaim that his Father, God the Father, had a kingdom to which all of us are invited. That kingdom is the Kingdom of Love. To teach meant to teach his followers how to love; not only how to live in a loving relationship with God, but how to love each and every person whom they encountered. To heal meant to mend broken hearts for hearts broken cannot truly love. This is the mission that Jesus passed on to his twelve Apostles and the mission he entrusted to his Church. The Church is a community of believers. All those who believe and accept that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah whom God the Father sent to us so as to free us from our sinfulness are members of that Church. Jesus founded the Church and entrusted it to the care of Peter and all the Apostles.

For the past 2,000 years men and women who have become members of Jesus' Church by their baptism have continued carrying on Jesus' mission of preaching, teaching and healing. In the 8th grade religion course we study the life stories of those people, the movements they created and the challenges they faced. The ultimate goal is not only for the students to know the historical details but more importantly to come to understand that truly living the Christian life has always been a challenge but one that they too are called to embrace. We hope to inspire them in their own personal spiritual growth.

The topics covered during the year include:

- The Spread of Early Christianity
- The Christianization of the Roman World
- Christendom
- The Protestant Reformation
- The Catholic Reformation
- The Age of Reason & Scientific Revolution
- Catholicism in the United States
- The 20th & 21st Centuries