

Sacraments, Church and Liturgy
Syllabus 2011-12
Ms. Maria Pollia
Immaculate Heart High School

OBJECTIVE This course offers the opportunity for students to explore the rich tradition of the Catholic Church through its sacramental theology and practice. The course seeks to engage students in an encounter with this essential dimension of Catholic life. The sacramental experience of reality fosters an awareness of the relationship between Jesus and the Church, as well as an appreciation of the sacredness of God's creation. Students will gain a comprehension of Church history, the renewal brought by the Second Vatican Council, the deeply scriptural nature of the seven sacraments. Catholic sacramental spirituality is not about encountering otherworldly phenomena but is rather, an earthy, concrete, personal experience of God's grace, available to all.

Through this course, each student should be able to:

- appreciate human communication through symbol and ritual
- recognize the value of the study of religion
- identify God's loving presence in her life through a sacramental awareness understand celebration as a way of life, appreciating God's gifts and rejoicing in them
- understand that sacramental celebration is not a private experience, but rather is shared by the community
- recognize that living a sacramental life means *being* sacraments of love and service to others, just as Jesus was
- understand that the sacramental life of the Church allows us as a community to experience the Paschal Mystery together, as we pass through death to new life
- express clearly her perspective on given topics through her journal and other class assignments.

REQUIRED Text: Celebrating Sacraments by Joseph Stoutzenberger

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I

Sessions 1-4

Introduction to the Course

- Our classroom community
- The study of religion- the 'whys and hows'
- Religion as "doing" faith together
- Key concepts and themes of the course-
 - The Catholic Way as deeply sacramental; experiencing God's grace through the five senses
 - Old Testament: The Garden—where it all begins and ends
 - New Testament: The Banquet— everyone is invited

Test: Includes reflections on: The Secret Life of Bees

Sessions 5-7

Chapter 1 Sacraments

- Sacramental Awareness
- Grace as God's Loving Presence in the World
- Receiving God's Offer of Friendship

Film reflection project: Patch Adams

Sessions 8-10

Chapter 2 Symbols

- Communicating Through Symbols
- Literal Thinking Versus Symbolic Thinking
- Symbols and the Sacraments

Reflection project: Symbols in Our Chapel

Test: Chapters 1 & 2

Sessions 11-12

Chapter 3 Ritual

- Rituals as Actions that Serve as Symbols
- Characteristics of Rituals- family, public, religious rituals
- Rituals and Worship

Sessions 13-14

Chapter 4 Prayer

- Sacred Time and Space
- Paths to Intimacy with God
- Praying “All Ways”

Diorama project: The Place where I Pray

Test: Chapters 3 & 4

Sessions 15-18

Chapter 5 Jesus Christ and the Church-- Christology

- Jesus, fully Divine and fully Human
- The Trinity
- We are the Sacrament of Christ to the World

Test: Chapter 5

Sessions 19-20

Chapter 6 Sacraments in History-- Ecclesiology

- Church History and Western Civilization
- The development of doctrine; the task of the theologian

Project—Church History Timeline

***** ASSIGNMENT: SACRAMENTS GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Session 20

Review for Midterm Exam

Session 21

Midterm Exam

PART II

THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Sessions 22-24

Chapter 7 Baptism

- Initiation; Welcome to our Community
- The Ritual of Baptism
- Baptism and Salvation

Baptism Group Presentation

Quiz Chapter 7

Sessions 25-26

Chapter 8 Confirmation

- Growth in the Spirit- a lifelong process
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Confirmation Group Presentation

Quiz Chapter 8

Sessions 27-29

Chapter 9 Eucharist- “the source and summit of the Christian life”

- Christ present in the Eucharist
- The Banquet
- Life and Eucharist as One- to BE the Body of Christ

Quiz Chapter 8

Film reflection project: The Student and the Nun

Eucharist Group Presentation

Session 30

Review and Test Chapters 7, 8 & 9

The Sacraments of Healing

Sessions 31-32

Chapter 10: Reconciliation

- Acknowledging our sin; telling our story
- Healing our relationships w/ God, ourselves, the community

Reconciliation- Group Presentation

Sessions 33-34

Chapter 11: the Anointing of the Sick

- Jesus as healer; Anointing- an ancient practice
- Healing the whole person
- Hope through the resurrection

Anointing of the Sick- Group Presentation

Session 35

Review and Test Chapters 10 & 11

The Sacraments of Vocation

Sessions 36-37

Chapter 12 Matrimony

- Covenant and Creativity
- Image of Christ and the Church
- The married couple as servants to the community

Matrimony- Group Presentation

Sessions 38-39

Chapter 13 Holy Orders

- Priests as servant- leaders
- Representing Christ

Holy Orders- Group Presentation

Sessions 40-41

Review for Final Exam

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The “Golden Rule” in my class is RESPECT. A respectful classroom environment is essential to the study of religion and for engagement in meaningful religious and interreligious dialogue. Disrespectful behavior toward yourself, your classmates or your teacher (be it myself or any substitute teacher) will result in negative class participation points and possibly disciplinary consequences, which will affect your overall grade in the class.

You are to come to class prepared with all necessary materials, that is, textbook, paper and a pen, and any homework or other assignments due for that day. I do not accept late work except in the case of absence.

Attendance is taken each day promptly at the beginning of the period. You are expected to be on time *with all essential books and materials*. Should you miss a test or quiz, you will ordinarily take the test on the day of your return to school during the regular class period.

You are responsible for material covered when absent, including homework, projects, journal topics assigned, and reading material. Students are expected to check the website each evening and do the homework assigned. If an assignment is based upon an in-class discussion or activity, the student is given one extra day to be advised as to the activity so she can approach the assignment to the best of her ability.

All students will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy on Pg. 11 of the Parent / Student Handbook. Any infringement upon this policy will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

GRADING

Participation is very important in this class. Each student is encouraged to contribute thoughtful and integrative statements to the discussions and will be expected to listen without prejudice, to the ideas and feelings of her classmates.

Students are expected to keep up with the assigned reading, and are expected to complete all assignments on time.

Tests and quizzes are indicated on the syllabus.

Each student is required to keep a journal in which she will respond to prompts assigned in class. The journal will be collected and checked every few weeks.

Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font (or equivalent), 12 point font size, with standard default margins (1” on all four sides).

GRADING SCALE

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes and Homework	10%
Tests	30%
Projects / Reflection Papers	30%
Final Exam	20%