

Theology Curriculum

The Theology Department, in conjunction with Campus Ministry, plays a central role in the school's mission of incorporating Catholic doctrine and tradition with the academic and spiritual development of each student. The courses required of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors provide a solid foundation in the Catholic theological tradition.

Leadership is one of the core values of Holy Family Catholic High School and, through its curriculum; the Theology Department is committed to the school's mission of shaping Christian leaders. It is the department's hope that leadership, informed by Catholic theology, will affect student involvement in Lasallian Youth, Student Council, athletic teams, and all activities (inside and outside of school) in which our students participate.

The formation of Christian leaders is heightened with the senior Christian leadership requirement. During their senior year, students have two options: the one-semester **Senior Leadership** class plus a semester of **World Religions** or **Prayer and Spirituality** or apply for the year-long **Senior Leadership/Advanced Service Learning** class. Both choices emphasize the study of leadership models and principles, and provide opportunities for seniors to utilize their leadership skills in the context of helping to build the kingdom of God on earth. The **Senior Leadership/Advanced Service Learning** class, however, is limited to one section and demands a large time commitment outside of the classroom. Therefore, enrollment in this course occurs through an application process.

011/012 Sacred Scripture 9th Grade

1 credit

This is a two-semester course required of all freshmen. Using the Bible as the primary text, students will learn the fundamental tools of Catholic scripture study. These tools will be employed in each student's academic and personal interpretation of God's Word. The study of Sacred Scripture will be integrated into the explorations of **World History** and **World Literature**.

013 Christian Morality 10th Grade

.5 credit

This is a semester course required of all sophomores. Students will study the connection between what one believes and how one lives, between the Christian faith and the Christian moral life. Students will learn the basic principles of the Catholic moral tradition and how these can be applied to life situations.

014 Sacraments and Liturgy 10th Grade

.5 credit

This semester course is required of all sophomores. Topics to be studied include sacramental awareness, Jesus as the sacrament of God, the Church as the sacrament of Jesus, the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church in their liturgical context, with special attention given to understanding Catholic worship (particularly the Mass) and liturgical practice.

020 Ecclesiology 11th Grade

.5 credit

This is a required semester course for juniors. What is the Church? What does it mean to be Catholic? This course explores these questions and more by studying the Church's nature and mission in the context of its history and doctrines. Special emphasis will be placed on the significance of the Second Vatican Council and the sacramental nature of the Church with certain lessons and projects integrating the ecclesiology of the Catholic Church in the United States with these classes: **United States History** and **American Literature**.

021 Catholic Social Teaching**11th Grade****.5 credit**

This is a semester course required of all juniors. This course calls juniors to become aware of justice issues in our world. Students will examine Church documents and use the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to analyze life issues, prejudice, racism, poverty, homelessness, violence, peace, and environmental concerns. Our faith calls us to respond to these issues and to take action in order to build God’s kingdom on earth. Students will be engaged in a service learning project throughout the semester, which will put them in contact with people in need. Through their work, students will be able to practice the “two feet” of Catholic Social Teaching by doing acts of charity and working for social change.

026 World Religions**12th Grade****.5 credit**

This is a one-semester course offered to seniors as an elective. Religion plays a vital role in the political, business, and social policies of the world. As the world grows smaller, there is a vital need to have an understanding and appreciation for the various religious beliefs and practices that exist among our global community. In addition, the study of different religious faiths helps us to understand and appreciate our own faith. In this course, students will examine the elements that are common to all religions and will focus attention primarily on the beliefs and religious practices/customs of the world’s major non-Christian religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.

030 Prayer and Spirituality**12th Grade****.5 credit**

This is a one-semester course offered to seniors as an elective. Without prayer, a person may *know of* God, but only through prayer can a person actually *know* God. But how should we pray? Is there more to prayer than what we presently experience? What does it mean to be spiritual? How is spirituality similar to and/or different from religion? Students will explore these and other questions through studying the spiritual traditions of Catholic Christianity. Besides regular reading, essays, and tests, students will keep a prayer journal throughout the semester to aid their

practice of daily prayer. The class will experience various types of prayer and meditation including Lectio Divina, Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic Adoration. This class provides an opportunity for students to grow in knowledge of the Christian Tradition and to develop a prayer life that nurtures spirituality and deepens the relationship with God.

043 Senior Leadership**12th Grade****.5 credit**

This one-semester course is one of two senior electives that fulfill the senior Christian leadership requirement. In this course, students will explore their roles as leaders at Holy Family and beyond by studying various models and characteristics of leadership. Focusing primarily on the servant leadership model of Jesus, other topics include: vocation, social justice, paschal mystery, and spirituality. Seniors will participate in the *StrengthsQuest* program in addition to other opportunities for self-discovery, goal-setting, post-secondary decisions, and career discernment.

046/ Senior Leadership and**047 Advanced Service Learning****12th Grade****1 credit**

This year-long course is one of two senior electives that fulfill the senior Christian leadership requirement. It combines the understanding of leadership skills and expectations with putting servant leadership into regular action. Members of this single-section class will be responsible for planning and daily convocation, retreats for the school and wider community, prayer services, Masses, and other special events throughout the school year. Students will be selected based on an application process that includes writing a personal essay and submitting two teacher recommendations. Criteria for selection will include, but not be limited to: promotion by example the ideals of Jesus Christ, a desire to deepen and share one’s faith, evidence of service involvement in the Holy Family or larger community, ability to balance academic and other commitments with those of this course, proof of self-sufficiency, resilience, motivation, and critical thinking. There will be a purposeful attempt to enroll a broad base of students with a variety of interests, as this group will be serving the entire student body.