

Level One "Core" Course Descriptions

An Introduction to Catholicism

The course will introduce students to the multifaceted nature of Catholicism in a historical framework. Students will be introduced to key concepts such as the meaning of faith, the nature of revelation, the analogy of faith, the concept of social salvation, and an awareness of the Church as a "mystery". In short, the course will help students to see the connection between their lives as Catholics and a God who uses history as a form of communication, who becomes incarnate, and who forms a sacramental community of faith.

Understanding the Creed

Students will be briefly introduced to the historical context behind the creeds before turning to consider the articles of the creed. The lectures will follow the Catechism's treatment of the 12 articles of the Nicene creed, with some particular care in addressing the issue of the final judgment.

Introduction to Holy Scripture

This course will introduce students to basic concepts that are necessary for reading Holy Scripture. The students will learn how the books of scripture were composed, the various types of scripture, and how the early Church chose books for inclusion into the Bible. The relationship between Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and in the life of the individual believer will be treated in the latter part of the course.

Unveiling the Sacraments

This course will explain the meaning of a sacramental worldview and its significance for human happiness. Students will receive a brief history as to the development of the seven sacraments and particular instruction on the history and spiritual significance of each sacrament. Particular attention will be paid to Baptism and Eucharist.

Catholic Moral and Social Teaching

Students will be introduced to a Catholic understanding of what it means to be human and how to reach fulfillment or happiness in life, which the Catechism sometimes refers to as beatitude. The course will cover how the Church understands conscience, sin, virtue, and the common good. Students will learn key distinctions such as the difference between an act being immoral and being sinful.

Trinity and Christology

Trinity and Christology are fundamental aspects of the Catholic faith, but they can be difficult for modern people to grasp. This course will explain why these doctrines developed as they did and will point to their spiritual significance. While part of the course will cover the major councils that developed these doctrines, it will also show how our understanding of Christ and the incarnation has adapted to cultural conditions in the past. Students will learn the difference between high and low Christology and how they are both legitimate ways of understanding Jesus Christ, which can be useful for both evangelization and catechesis.

Level Two courses will build on this foundation to offer in-depth treatments of the Creed, Christology, Scripture, Sacraments, Morality, and Church History.