

Honors Religion I (013)**Grade 9****Honors****Student selection based upon high school placement test.**

This course is designed to allow the student to examine the development of the Catholic Church and its traditions in depth. It is designed for the student with strong reading skills. They will use some of the documents of Vatican II to get a better understanding of the recent history of the Church. Additionally, stress will be placed on an understanding of the history of the Christian Church from its roots in Judaism to the present.

Religion I (010)**Grade 9****CPI**

This class is a survey of Catholic traditions, beliefs, rituals and values. It is designed to build a bridge between a grade school understanding of the Catholic faith and the more challenging high school curriculum. It provides an opportunity for all students, both entering from parochial and public schools, to begin their high school careers on an equal footing.

Honors Religion II (023)**Grade 10****Honors****Prerequisite: Department approval**

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated strong reading and analytical skills. This year is a study of the Scriptures. All of the areas of Religion II will be covered. In addition, the student will examine the Bible in three ways: spiritually, historically, and as works of literature.

Religion II (020)**Grade 10****CPI**

This year students spend the entire year focused on the explanation of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. First semester is focused on the Hebrew writings as they relate to the revelation of God to God's people. Emphasis is placed on the hands on use of the Bible and the skill to read, write and locate specific passages. The second semester focuses on the Christian writings. During this semester the spotlight is on the person of Jesus through the study of the gospels. The students learn of the historical Jesus as they are challenged to find the implications of the life and teachings of Jesus in their life today. During this semester time is spent reading the books Acts, Epistles and Revelations.

Honors Religion III (033)**Grade 11****Honors****Prerequisite: Department approval**

Students will cover various world religions along with a focus on the history of the Catholic Church in America. Students will be required to look at scripture and witness the faith practices of the following religions: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Students will focus on the connection between religion and society on a worldwide basis.

World Religions (030)**Grade 11****CPI**

This junior year curriculum at St. Mary's is divided into two components by semester. The course of study is major world religions as compared to Catholic faith during one semester and a service program (which includes the study of social justice issues) that is completed in the other half of the year. Because of the great religious diversity now present in American society, an awareness of the religious dialogues and ecumenical education are becoming increasingly relevant and necessary parts of Christian religion instruction. We hope to foster a greater appreciation for the great religious traditions of the West and East so that students may discover both the similarities that exist between them and the distinctive character of the Catholic faith and its traditions. Through this study of world religions, students gain a better understanding of the role that religion plays in society. The fundamental role of each Christian is to serve and thus students experience firsthand this dimension of their faith through participating in a variety of service oriented projects.

Christian Morality (040)**Grade 12****CPI**

The first semester focuses on the development of virtue and character. The courses approach enables young people to see moral questions not simply as an endless string of issues, but as an opportunity for personal growth. The course poses the important questions, what kind of person do I want to become, and then offers a Christian vision to answer this question centering on the person of Jesus as the model. The year is dedicated to the exploration and understands of the Two Great Commandments of Jesus-to love God and your neighbor as yourself. This is done by giving the student's time to define their own goals, hopes and dreams for the future as well as looking at specific relevant ethical and moral issues.

Bio-ethics**Grade 12****Honors**

This course level course is designed to introduce health care ethics to students unfamiliar with the subject area. Grounded in a rich theological tradition, the course is specifically geared toward (but not exclusively) those students who are planning to enter the health care professions. This course is an honors level option for seniors. (Department approval required)