

8th Grade Religion

Mrs. Emmerich

Expectations and Syllabus

This year, middle school students will have a new set of expectations and learning goals in Religion as set forth by the curriculum committee. It is our goal to give all students, regardless of their faith, the opportunity to engage the religion curriculum on a daily basis. It is our hope that each student will participate fully in the religious experience at St. Joseph School. It is our belief that students will enhance their own relationship with Christ and each other, not only through the curriculum, but also through daily interactions with their peers.

Opportunities for participation will include:

- Class discussion, individual, group assignments and projects,
- Opening and closing prayer,
- Peer ministry, retreat planning, mass preparation,
- Individual reflection and writing in religion journals,
- Service projects in school and in the community,
- 2 retreats (fall/spring) for 8th grade students.

Materials and Texts:

To be prepared for class, all students must have the **6** following items with them **WHEN** they come to class every day, **NOT** after they arrive. We will work on being prepared from Day 1!

1. Religion Reflection Journal (notebook)
2. Folder
3. Pen (blue or black), pencil (with an eraser) to take notes
4. Jesuit Prayer Book (blue)
5. Religion Text: Christ Our Life (orange text book handed out first week of class)
6. Bible (To be kept in classroom for class use. You may want to have your own bible at home for projects, homework, etc.)

Christ Our Life, *Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life*, Notre Dame. Chardon, Ohio. Loyola Press. 2009.

A Book of Prayers from the Jesuit Community. St. Joseph School. 2013-2014 (blue book handed out first week of school)

8th Grade Retreats:

This year, all middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in at least one class retreat. The 8th graders have the privilege of attending two retreats this year. Your attendance is expected at these retreats because you are an integral part of your class!! Your retreat team works very hard to prepare reflective, fun, and memorable retreat experiences for you. It is your responsibility to show up!

Fall Retreat: Wednesday, November 6

Spring Retreat: Wednesday, May 7

A more detailed letter will be sent home prior to the first retreat explaining the goals, overview, and expectations of the retreat. We are very excited about the newly formed retreat program, and we welcome your input in the planning process!

Course Expectations:

I weigh the expectations to give students multiple opportunities to succeed in class. As you can see, your participation will largely determine your grade. However, it is very important to review and study for quizzes and tests as well!

A note on Powerschool:

As many of you know, both students and parents alike have access to Powerschool. We recognize the importance of putting our grades in a timely, consistent manner. We strongly suggest speaking with your children about their grades *prior* to contacting a teacher. This opens the lines of communication up between parent and child, and paves the way for a clearer discussion with the teachers.

Course Expectation	Description	Percentage of final grade
Participation	Written responses in religion journal, opening and closing prayer, homework and other assignments as given, peer ministry and mass preparation, overall engagement with class material and each other	50%
Weekly Homily	This is your opportunity to read, reflect, and share your response to the weekly gospel in the form of your own homily. Homilies are assigned each Monday (from Sunday's gospel). Responses should be typed, thoughtful, and directly relate to weekly gospel. They are due in class each Friday.	20%
Unit Tests	Unit tests (comprised of material we have covered over several chapters. Use quizzes to study for these unit tests!)	20%
Quizzes	Weekly quiz (3-5 questions on material we have covered during the chapter that week)	10%
		100%

Course of Study: This is an *expected* outline of the course. I will inform you of any changes made to the schedule as they come up. Thank you.

Focus: The Church Then and Now-Church History/ Our Faith Alive Today

Unit	Chapter Title	Scripture Focus	Catholic Social Teaching
Unit 1: The Mystery of the Church <i>Multimedia images of the Church(T17)</i>	Chapter 1: A Community of Disciples Chapter 2: Tracing Our Roots Chapter 3: A Closer Look Chapter 4: A People of Prayer Chapter 5: A People of Service <i>Unit 1 Review</i>	Matthew 16:18 John 15:1-8 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13	Family and Community, Rights and Responsibilities, Life and Dignity, Solidarity
Unit 2: The Marks of the Church <i>In Service of Others</i> <i>Prayer Cards for those in our school, community</i>	Chapter 6: One in the Spirit Chapter 7: Made Holy in the Spirit Chapter 8: A Church That Is Catholic Chapter 9: An Apostolic Church <i>Unit 2 Review</i>	1 Corinthians 12:12-20 Acts of the Apostles 4:32 Isaiah 11:1-3	Family and Community, God's Creation, The Poor and the Vulnerable

<p>Unit 3: The History of the Church: Part I</p> <p><i>Art History-A Study of the importance of Religious Art</i></p> <p><i>Acts of the Apostles Skits (T143)</i></p>	<p>Chapter 10: The First Years Chapter 11: The Church Grows Chapter 12: A House Built on Rock Chapter 13: A Light in the Darkness: Part I Chapter 14: A Light in the Darkness: Part II <i>Unit 3 Review</i></p>	<p>Acts of the Apostles 5-10, 15 Acts of the Apostles 9:1-22, 22:2-16, 26:9-18 Galatians 1:15-17 Psalm 62:3 Luke 8:16</p>	<p>Life and Dignity, Family and Community, Poor and Vulnerable</p>
<p>Unit 4: The History of the Church: Part II</p> <p><i>*Reformation Lecture(s)</i></p> <p><i>Penance Service</i></p>	<p>Chapter 15: The Church Faces Challenges Chapter 16: Reforming the Church Chapter 17: In a Changing World Chapter 18: Signs of the Times Chapter 19: The Church in North America <i>Unit 4 Review</i></p>	<p>Matthew 28:20 Matthew 16:18 John 14:16 Luke 21:15 Psalm 139:13-17 Luke 10:29-37</p>	<p>Solidarity, Community, Poor and Vulnerable</p>
<p>Unit 5: The Witness of the Church</p> <p><i>Saint Profiles and Mosaic Project</i></p> <p><i>Romero, The film</i></p>	<p>Chapter 20: The Way of Holiness Chapter 21: The Way of Faith Chapter 22: The Way of Worship Chapter 23: The Way of the Family Chapter 24: The Way of Human Dignity Chapter 25: The Way of Justice and Truth <i>Unit 5 Review</i></p>	<p>1 John 4:8 John 14:6 John 13:34 Exodus 20:2-7 Matthew 22:37</p>	<p>God's Creation, Rights and Responsibilities, Justice and Truth</p>

Communication:

1. Email: kemmerich@mcsmt.org
2. I will respond to email questions or concerns within 24 hours. Please do not expect an immediate response. I have other classes and responsibilities, too. I am available during the school day from 7:45-3:45. If you have an immediate question, and I am with a class, please reach Mr. Hyland. You can contact him directly.
3. Phone: I do not give out my cell phone number, but you can reach me directly at St. Joseph School. The front office (**549-1290**) will direct you to my classroom. If I am not available, please leave a message with the front desk and I will call you during my prep or lunch period. Thank you!
4. Absences:
 - a. Planned (Doctor appointments, vacations, etc.): Please contact me at least one day before a scheduled absence so we can arrange for make-up work in advance. Because participation is such a large component of your grade, you will be responsible for class work/homework during your absence.
 - b. Unplanned (Sick/Family Emergency): You will have as many days to make up work as you are out sick.
5. Edmodo: All middle school students will use the Edmodo program to access assignments in each class. It is very important to check your Edmodo account DAILY! You can message me directly on Edmodo or pose questions to your classmates as well. It is a fantastic tool!
 - a. Edmodo Directions:
 - You will receive a log in code for Religion 8: exppie
Do not lose this code!
 - Go to www.edmodo.com and sign up/register as a student user
 - Mrs. Gilman will also assist with registration in computer class.
 - Once registered, log on and say hello to let us know you have completed the registration process.

Please read through the expectations with your parents. After you have gone over this packet together, please write down any questions you may have here:

Please sign and detach this page only. Keep the packet with you in your folder.

Student Name _____

Grade _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____