

Marion Catholic Jr/Sr High School
7th Grade Religion Course Syllabus 2008-2009

Instructor: Mr. David Bennett

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Textbook: *New Testament* (Sadlier Press); *Liturgy and Worship* (Sadlier Press)

Semester I: The Gospels and New Testament

This course focuses primarily on the gospels, but touches on other New Testament books. Students will learn about the life and teachings of Jesus. An emphasis is placed on applying the life and teachings of Jesus to the students' present day lives. Students will be expected to read New Testament texts.

Topics Covered / Class Outline:

- Introduction to Studying the New Testament
- New Testament Background
- Literary Forms of the Gospel
- Jesus and his cultural context
- Differences and Similarities in the Gospels
- Jesus as Lord and God
- Jesus' miracles
- Jesus' teachings and parables
- The New Covenant
- Jesus' future coming
- Jesus Christ as seen by every age

Semester II: The Sacraments

This semester emphasizes the sacraments as means of grace. The history and nature of each sacrament will be emphasized. The Eastern Catholic way of looking at the sacraments will be included. The way other denominations view the sacraments will be discussed. Students will learn why the sacraments are important and how to properly receive the sacraments.

Topics Covered / Class Outline:

- Introduction to the Sacraments
- What makes a sacrament?
- Sacraments versus Sacramentals
- Baptism
- Eucharist
- Reconciliation
- Confirmation
- Marriage
- Holy Orders
- Anointing of the Sick

General Expectations

Even though it is impossible to grade a person's spirituality, the study of religion includes facts, dates, ideas, etc. This course is a full-credit course, and students are expected to complete the work and put in a good effort. If a student takes notes, makes a good effort when writing journals, and completes homework, he or she should get a good grade. Students will be asked to learn about Catholic Teaching and understand the implications of this Teaching in their own lives and in their relationships with others.

Grade Values

The values of assignments breaks down as follows:

Note Check	10 points
Journal Check	10 points
Homework	Varies
Quizzes	20-50 points
Tests	50-100 points
Papers/Projects	Varies
Other Assignments	Varies

Student Notebook or Binder

Students are expected to have either a religion notebook or binder, containing about 100-150 pages. They are expected to keep all running class work in this binder or notebook. This is so that all of the material needed on the test is available to them. Notes, journals, and assignments are to be kept here.

Notes and Journals

Notes will be checked regularly and graded to ensure students are keeping up. Students are expected to take notes whenever they are presented in class. Failure to pay attention/take notes will result in low note grades. Quizzes and Tests are primarily derived from notes.

Students write in journals occasionally. Journal entries will be reflection upon a topic, song, video clip, Scripture reading, prayer, etc. For a full grade students are expected to write at least a 1/2 page response, and show that they put effort into the process.

Homework

Homework is given frequently and will often be graded. Students are expected to turn in homework. If not, a zero grade will be given until something is turned in. Late homework is accepted, but for a reduced grade.

Quizzes and Tests

These will be given regularly to evaluate student progress. Some will be open-notes, some open-review-sheet, but others will not be. In order to do well on the quizzes and tests students must keep up with their coursework.

Projects and Research Papers

Semester I - Students are expected to learn about different literary styles of the Bible and will be expected to compose examples of three to four of these on their own. They will then share this with the class.

Semester II - Students will research a particular sacrament and read material relating to that sacrament. They will be expected to write a 2-3 page paper and present their research in class.

Extra Credit

Participating in Mass, leading the class in prayer, and answering the trivia question of the day are ways to earn extra credit. Students may only earn 15 points of extra credit from the trivia question per quarter. Extra credit is only given in small amounts, but can add up to help the overall grade.

Missed Work / Make-Up Work

Students are to turn in assignments on the day they are due, unless excused. If they are excused due to an approved absence, they are to get the assignment from the instructor on their first day back. They will have one day per day missed to make up work. This means that they may have to turn in make-up work on a day when they do not have religion class.

Late work is accepted, but at a reduced point rate. The reduction is taken off their earned grade. The late point values are below:

Turned in by the end of the class	10 % reduction
Turned in by end of day	25% reduction
Turned in by the next	35% reduction
Turned in before 5 days before end of quarter	50% reduction