

# THEOLOGY

(four credits required)

## Theology I

(Boys/Girls Theology)

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. They will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. Students will also be introduced to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, the students will also learn who He calls them to be.

## Introduction to Theology

(International Student Section)

Students new to the school and this country will be enrolled in this section. Students will be oriented to the mass and learn about the liturgical year. They will study sacred scriptures with the goal of encountering the living Christ. This course will serve as an introduction to American culture as well. We will use a comparative approach to culture as we learn about American social norms, holidays, traditions and values. Since most of the students in this course speak English as a second language, there will be a conversational and public speaking requirement in this class. We will create a safe environment for students to learn about the culture and theology of Lexington Catholic High School.

## Theology II

*This course is divided into two semesters, each with a different focus. Both semesters are required.*

## The Paschal Mystery

The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.

## Church History

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by Him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not only about events in the life of the Church but also about the sacred nature of the Church.

## Theology III

*This course is divided into two semesters, each with a different focus. Both semesters are required.*

### Sacraments

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the Sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the Sacraments in detail to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

### Life in Jesus Christ

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students will explore the moral precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples, rooted in the truth that every human person has been created in God's own image, and therefore possesses unfathomable dignity. This core principle guides the rest of the course as students explore the dynamics of moral decision making in the context of today's culture and society, with an emphasis on Jesus' gospel message of love, compassion, kindness, justice, and mercy.

## Theology IV

*Seniors are required to take two of the following courses:*

### Ecumenical Issues

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church and entrusted to her the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students to recognize the ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in non-Catholic Christian churches and ecclesial communities as well as in non-Christian religions. It is also intended to help them to recognize the ways in which other systems of belief and practice differ from the Catholic faith.

### Responding to the Call

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course students learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course is structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students should learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

### Sacred Scripture – Old Testament

This course provides an overview of the Old Testament, a collection of ancient books that Christians and Jews believe are divinely inspired and authoritative in what they reveal about God and humanity. This course seeks to make these books more accessible to students by helping them grasp an overview of salvation history (including how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New), a better understanding of the origins and literary styles of the text, and effective methods of study that will help them apply the Scriptures to their daily lives.

## Sacred Scripture – New Testament

This course seeks to help students better understand and study the New Testament, a collection of first century (AD) writings that presents the works and message of Jesus of Nazareth and his followers.

While the approach to the text is scholarly, students will also consider the personal implications of Jesus' ministry, particularly the claim that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Christ (Messiah), and the divine Son who has inaugurated the Kingdom of God through his life, death, and resurrection, and has instituted the Church to continue his mission until his promised return.

## Honors Philosophy

This course is a survey of the major philosophical contributors to Western thought with an emphasis on Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle as well as the pillars of the Catholic faith, St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. The students will read primary source texts from these philosophers as well as key Catholic Church documents by twentieth century Church leaders that will include John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Philosophical topics will be compared and contrasted to the elements of the Catholic faith that have a strong theological foundation in Scripture and philosophical treatises by Augustine and Aquinas.