Course Title: The Sacraments and Christian Morality

Course Description: All students are welcome in this community based course wherein students participate in dynamic activities, creative projects, engaging discussion, and various prayer forms, all designed to help them develop their faith and to understand what it means to live a sacramental life grounded in Christian morality.

During the first semester, the focus of this course is to help the student learn about the Seven Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, to enable them to more fully participate in the sacramental life of the Church. The course also explores the history, scriptural foundation, and current practices of the sacraments.

Students face countless choices and challenges in their daily lives. During the second semester, this course addresses how a relationship with Christ can lead to choices that are in accord with God’s plan. The students learn what it means to live as a disciple of Christ and how the Church strengthens this discipleship.

Course #: 1131-1133

UC/CSU Approval: Religion courses are not UC/CSU Approved

Grade Level: 11

Estimated Homework Per Week: 30 minutes

Prerequisite: none

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:
- Basic Understanding of the Mass
- Ability to navigate the Bible
- Understanding and ability to use the theological vocabulary from previous courses

Course Grade Scale:
- 40% Assessments
- 35% Assignments
- 10% Participation
- 15% Cumulative Final Exam
Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Sacraments Units

Unit 1: The Liturgy
Key concepts:
• The liturgy is the official, communal, and public worship of the Church.
• In the Liturgy, the People of God participate in the work of God.
• All the Church’s liturgies are celebrations of the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 2: The Sacraments
Key concepts:
• Through the Sacraments we are given a door, a way in, to the life of grace, which is the life of
  relationship with God.
• Through the Sacraments we encounter Christ and enter into the mystery of his death and Resurrection.
• Symbols and rituals play an essential role in the Sacraments.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 3: Baptism
Key concepts:
• The three Sacraments of Christian Initiation begin and strengthen our life in Christ.
• The Easter vigil is the most appropriate time to celebrate the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
• Baptism requires an ongoing conversion, a continual turning toward God.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 4: Confirmation
Key concepts:
• The Sacrament of Confirmation seals the Christian with the Holy Spirit.
• Confirmation strengthens our relationship to the Body of Christ, the Church, and helps us bear
  witness to our faith.
• The Holy Spirit empowers us to discern God’s will.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 5: The Eucharist
Key concepts:
• Through the Eucharist we enter into the Paschal Mystery of Christ.
• Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life, our food for life’s journey.
• The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 6: The Sacraments of Healing
Key concepts:
• The Sacraments of Healing are rooted in Jesus’ ministry.
• The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation offers us God’s forgiveness.
• The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick supports us in grave illness and offers healing.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 7: The Sacraments of Service and Communion
Key concepts:
• Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, baptized men are ordained to serve the Church.
• In the intimate union of man and woman in body and spirit, marital love is an image of God’s love for us all.
• The key elements essential to Marriage are unity, indissolubility, and openness to children.

Assessment: Unit Test

Morality Units

Unit 1: Foundations of Morality
Key Concepts:
• Christian morality is rooted in God’s plan for humanity: human beings were created for communion with God, leading to true love and happiness.
• God’s plan for how human beings are to live is fully revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 2: Sin and Salvation
Key Concepts:
• The human refusal to respond to God’s love disrupts our covenant relationship with him and impedes moral living.
• The object, intention, and circumstances determine the moral goodness of any human act. They also determine the severity of sinful acts.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 3: Honoring God
Key Concepts:
• The First Commandment calls people to put their faith and hope in God alone and to love him above all other things.
• The Second Commandment calls people to honor God in every thought, word, and deed and to have reverence for everything that is holy.
• The Third Commandment is a call to keep Sundays holy through prayer, reception of the Eucharist, relaxation, and works of charity.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 4: Obedience and Truth
Key Concepts:
• The Fourth Commandment calls for faithful citizenship, especially through promoting the common good.
• The Eighth Commandment is a call to bear witness to God, the source of all truth, through a life of honesty and integrity.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 5: Living Justly
Key Concepts:
• The Seventh and Tenth Commandments call people to respect personal property and to avoid the sins of envy and greed.
• Among the key themes at the heart of Catholic social doctrine are the dignity of the human person, the option for the poor and vulnerable, the rights of workers, and the care for all creation.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 6: Respecting Life
Key Concepts:
• The Fifth Commandment demands that people respect and protect human life in all its stages from conception through natural death.
• Christ’s Law of Love calls people to reject revenge and retaliation and to engage in the challenge of becoming a peacemaker.

Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 7: Respecting Sexuality
Key Concepts:
• The Sixth and Ninth Commandments call a wife and husband in marriage to a faithful intimate partnership that reflects God’s love and life-giving power.
• Human sexuality is an inherently good gift of God directed toward sharing God’s love and bringing new life into the world.
Assessment: Unit Test