

Holy Family Academy  
*Ad Veritatem Per Fidem Et Rationem*  
Grade 8

**Instructor:** Miss Vandegriff

**Course Title:** Catechesis 8: The Communion of the Faithful

**Course Description:**

This year we will delve into the mystery of the Church by studying her nature, mission, and history. Furthermore, we will deepen our understanding of what it means for us to live as members of the Church through our study of Catholic moral and social teaching. *The ultimate goal of this course is not to memorize "facts" about the church or to be able to recite a list of the Church's teachings; rather, our goal is that, by increasing our knowledge and understanding of the Church, her history, and her teachings, we might embrace more fully our relationship with God as members of His Church.*

**Course Objectives:**

1. Recognize our fundamental identity as children of God and our call to be in relationship with Him through the Church
2. Understand the nature and mission of the Church and see how she has lived out this mission throughout the changing circumstances of history.
3. Gain a basic understanding of the nature of morality and the Church's moral teaching.
4. Recognize our obligations as Christian citizens
5. Deepen our understanding of our human nature, by reflecting on what it means to be created in the image of God as male and female.
6. Grow closer to God by allowing what we learn to take root in our hearts!

**Scope and Sequence:**

- Unit 1: Personal Growth
- Unit 2: Church History
- Unit 3: Morality: The Journey in Christian Living
- Unit 4: The Citizen and Government
- Unit 5: God's Plan for Love and Marriage

**Course Texts:**

- *Spirit of Truth: The Communion of the Faithful*, (Sophia Institute for Teachers), 2017.
- *Bible*, Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (Doubleday: New York), 1997.

**Course Supplies:**

Binder  
Loose-leaf Paper  
Pens and Pencils  
Colored Pencils

**Grading:**

Class Participation: 10%  
Homework: 15%  
Quizzes: 20%  
Projects/Presentations: 15%  
Tests: 20%  
Exam: 20%

**Class Participation:**

Class participation will be graded according to four tasks that can and should be done each class. 1) Be on time to class, 2) Bring all appropriate materials for class, 3) Have your homework (even if you didn't finish, have it out and that will count), 4) Be fully involved in class, (this includes active listening, readiness to participate in class discussions, and respect towards your teacher and classmates).

**Homework:**

Homework will usually consist of assignments from the student workbook and must be turned in at the beginning of each class.

**Tests and Quizzes:**

Students should expect two tests for each unit as well as a final exam at the end of each semester. Weekly quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class every Thursday.

**Presentations:**

Twice a semester students will give an oral presentation on an assigned saint to the class.

**Extra Assistance:**

I am personally committed to the success of every student in this class. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or desire assistance with class or homework. My e-mail is: [avandegriff@holymfamilyacademy.org](mailto:avandegriff@holymfamilyacademy.org).

**The instructor reserves the right to change or modify this course and the syllabus subject to appropriate and timely notice to the students enrolled in this class.**