



St. Bernard's High School

Religion Department

Paul Constantino
Maryann Raymond

45 Harvard Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Stbernardscchs.org

stbernardsalumni.org

Current 4 Year Religion Progression

Level	All Levels
Freshmen	Hebrew & Christian Scriptures
Sophomore	Sacraments
Junior	The Christian Life
Senior	Catholic Social Ethics

Religion

The Religion Department of St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School nourishes students with methodological academic instruction, opportunities to answer the call to service in society, and by providing a living example of the Christian life. It is through these domains that the department offers an integral element of the Catholic school environment.

Requirements: Four credits; exception: transfer students must pass a course for each year they are enrolled at St. Bernard's

Grade 9: *Hebrew and Christian Scriptures*

The principle thrust of the first semester is the examination of the Hebrew Scriptures. The course provides students with the basic skills necessary for a well-grounded interpretation of biblical material. The course serves as a tool to assist students in making connections between truths contained in the Hebrew Scriptures and their own lives.

During the second semester, students will creatively encounter the Christian Scriptures in its entirety. The intent of this study is to provide comprehensive introduction to the meaning and significance of key aspects of the Christian Scripture, its people, events and impact on our times.

Credit: 1.0

Grade 10: *Sacraments*

The purpose of the course is to discover the meaning and implications of the seven sacraments. This is accomplished by reading texts, class lectures, papers and projects that explore God's presence in our lives. The use of art, literature, music and film are examined to develop an understanding of the history of the Catholic Church and students' perceptions of Jesus Christ and His presence in the seven sacraments.

Credit: 1.0

Grade 11: *The Christian Life*

This course is designed to be an investigation of personal Christian ethics and their impact on the moral decision-making process. The students will have an opportunity to examine the development of a consistent, personal Code of Ethics. The course will include the study of the Decalogue, as the Law of the Jewish people, the Sermon on the Mount and the Gospels of Matthew and John. Through extensive use of scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, as well as the internet and film, particular attention will be given to the life and teachings of Jesus as the ideal model for the Christian life.

Credit: 1.0

Grade 12: Catholic Social Ethics

This course seeks to establish a connection between Catholic social teaching and contemporary life. The course will emphasize the distinctions between Catholic moral theology and competing ethical theories. Key concepts will focus on the nine themes of Catholic social teaching: 1) The Dignity of the Human Person, 2) Solidarity and the Common Good, 3) Family Life, 4) Subsidiarity, 5) Property Ownership, 6) the Dignity and Rights of Workers, 7) Economic Development, 8) Peace, and 9) Option for the Poor. Case studies will be drawn from non-fictional periodicals and fictional stories in order to synthesize concepts with real-life situations.

Credit: 1.0

*Please note that the United States Conference of Bishops recently issued a national curriculum framework to standardize instruction across the United States. The framework is designed to shape a four-year, eight semester course of catechetical instruction. It is composed of six core semester-length subject themes with room for a diocese or school to choose two elective subject themes. The sequence in which the core curriculum appears reflects a systematic point of view in which each course builds on a foundation laid by those that precede it. The St. Bernard's Theology Department and the Diocese of Worcester have worked together during the last year to prepare the department members to implement these changes. Although the content will not change dramatically, the sequence and textbooks will differ from what is presented in this handout.

Curriculum to be Implemented beginning in the fall of 2012
*Designed within the frameworks of the National Curriculum established by the
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Core Curriculum	
Grade 9	Fall Semester: I. <i>The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture</i> Spring Semester: II. <i>Who is Jesus Christ</i>
Grade 10	Fall Semester: III. <i>The Mission of Jesus Christ</i> Spring Semester IV. <i>Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church</i>
Grade 11	Fall Semester V. <i>Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ</i> Spring Semester VI. <i>Life in Jesus Christ</i>
Electives	
Grade 12	Option A. <i>Sacred Scripture</i> Option B. <i>History of the Catholic Church</i> Option C. <i>Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society</i> Option D. <i>Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ</i>