

Saint Patrick High School

Curriculum Guide

Department	Religious Studies	Grade	Senior
Class	Understanding Christian Morality		

Required Text	Christian Morality: Our Response to God’s Love – downloaded from Intel Study
Additional Materials	<p><u>iPad Apps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showbie • Good Reader • Mindmeister • Keynote • Haiku • Educreation • Cell Storming • FlowVella <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCCB Bible (Online) • Catechism of the Catholic Church

Class Website:
https://sites.google.com/a/stpatrick.org/christian-morality/ .

Course Description

This course leads the students toward a deeper understanding of biblical foundations of moral laws summarized by the Ten Commandments and informed by Christ’s moral teachings in the Gospels and by the moral teaching of the Church as it applies to what God has revealed to our contemporary moral questions.

- **CREED:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.
- **SACRAMENTS:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.
- **CHRISTIAN LIVING:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, the dignity of the human person, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, and love of neighbor
- **SACRED SCRIPTURE:** Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through the signs of scripture.
- **LITURGY:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist the source and summit of Christian life.
- **CHRISTIAN PRAYER/ SPIRITUALITY:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.
- **CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.
- **PARISH LIFE:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.
- **VOCATION:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ responding in faith by participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church
- **ECUMENISM AND DIALOGUE:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world through knowledge of and collaboration with Christian churches, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

Unit Themes (Table of Contents)

Theme 1:	Foundations of Morality: God's Plan
Theme 2:	Sin and Salvation
Theme 3:	Honoring God
Theme 4:	Obedience and Truth
Theme 5:	Living Justly
Theme 6:	Respecting Life
Theme 7:	Respecting Sexuality

Agreed Upon Assessments

Forms of assessments may include but are not limited to....

- Pre-assessments
- Class Discussions
- Small Group Discussions
- Group or Individual Projects
- Quizzes
- Unit Exam

Homework

All homework will be assigned and turned in using the iPad. We will be using a variety of methods. The Catholic Foundations website (<https://sites.google.com/a/stpatrick.org/christian-morality/>) will serve as the source of Assignments and Worksheets along with due dates of the required work we will cover this during the semester.

Christian Morality Unit Affirmation Statements

Unit 1

Overview

This unit will introduce the students to the meaning of Christian Vocation as a pure gift that is celebrated and strengthened in the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. It will

examine the Christian vocation in light of the Old and New Testament stories of God’s call and the free response of the human person, and it will explore the dual meaning of vocation as the fundamental call to Christian discipleship as well as a call to a particular state in life.

Unit 1 – Living Our Christian Vocation: God’s Call and Our Response	Duration:	4 Weeks
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Students will be able to master the following ideas through discussion, projects and testing:

- Christian morality is rooted in God’s plan for humanity: human beings were created for union with God, leading to true love and happiness.
- Obeying God’s Eternal Law is the path to true happiness; it is made known through human intellect and Divine Revelation.
- God’s plan for how human beings are to live is fully revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- The Church assists its members in moral living through the teaching of the Magisterium, the Sacraments and Church Law.

Unit 1	Essential Questions
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- How is Christian Morality related to the divine gifts of intellect and free will?
- How can people come to know God’s Eternal Law?
- How does living the beatitudes influence my daily actions?

Unit 2 – Sin and Salvation	Duration	3 Weeks
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Unit 2	Overview
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This unit explores key ideas of sin revealed in the Scriptures; consequences of sin evident in our relationship with God, others and self; definitions of sin; and types of sin. Acquiring a common language enables the student to discuss the abstract concepts and complex realities of sin.

Students will be able to master the following ideas through discussion, projects and testing:

- The human refusal to respond to God’s love disrupts our covenant relationship with him and impedes moral living.
- Sin can be defined as rebelling against God, as missing the mark, as trespassing against God’s law or as choosing darkness over light. It is an act contrary to reason and injures human nature.
- The object, intention and circumstances determine the moral goodness of any human act. They also determine the severity of sinful acts.
- Conversion is the core of salvation and is essential to Christian moral living.

Unit 2	Essential Questions
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- How does sin affect our relationship with God, with other people and with ourselves?
- Where is the power of sin evident in our society today?
- What determines the morality of a human act?
- How is conversion essential to Christian moral living?

Unit 3 – Honoring God	Duration	3 Weeks
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Unit 3	Overview
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This unit explores the themes of love reverence and honor in the first three commandments as well as the sins that result from the failure to keep these commandments.

Students will be able to master the following ideas through discussion, projects and testing:

- The First Commandment calls people to put their faith and hope in God alone and to love him above all other things
- In the New Law, Jesus expands our understanding of the First Commandment so it is clear that putting faith in anything other than in God for our salvation and ultimate happiness is a form of idolatry.
- The Second Commandment calls a person 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 charity.

Unit 3	Essential Questions
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- How does having faith in God alone lead to true freedom and happiness?
- How was the First Commandment violated in Old Testament times? How is it violated today?
- How can we give honor to God?
- How does observing the Sabbath strengthen our relationship with God?

Unit 4 – Obedience and Truth	Duration	3 Weeks
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Unit 4	Overview
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This unit transitions from love of God to the love of neighbor. The student learns about the responsibilities and duties to families found in the Fourth Commandment, and how this commandment we learn how to act towards all people. We will also study the Eighth Commandment, considering how the virtue of honesty has its foundation in God.

Students will be able to master the following ideas through discussion, projects and testing:

- The loving union of the Holy Trinity is reflected in family life.
- Obedience to and respect for legitimate authority builds harmony and promotes solidarity both in family life and in society.
- The Fourth Commandment calls for faithful citizenship, especially through the promotion of the common good.
- The Eighth Commandment is a call to bear witness to God who is the source of all truth, through a life of honesty and integrity.

Unit 4	Essential Questions
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- How is family life a reflection of the Holy Trinity?
- How does obedience and respect build harmony and promote solidarity?

- In working for the common good, what are the responsibilities of the state and what are the responsibilities of citizens?
- How do we develop moral character based on honesty and integrity and guard against sins against the Eighth Commandment?

Unit 5 – Living Justly	Duration	3 Weeks
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Unit 5	Overview
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This unit explores the complexities of following the demands of the Seventh and Tenth Commandment. It shows the sinful attitudes of envy and greed that are at the root of stealing. The Seventh and Tenth Commandment compels us to practice justice in all of our social relationships.

Students will be able to master the following ideas through discussion, projects and testing:

- The 7th and 10th Commandments call people to respect personal property and to avoid the sins of envy and greed.
- The fundamental rights and dignity of human persons demand the just distribution of the earth's resources.
- Among the key themes at the heart of Catholic Social Doctrine is the dignity of the human person, the option of for the poor and vulnerable, the rights of workers and the care of creation.
- The Gospel of Christ directs the desires of the heart away from attachment towards goods and toward true happiness.

Unit 5	Essential Questions
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- How can we combat the influence of envy and greed?
- What are the Gospel teachings on material possessions and wealth?
- How do the key themes of Catholic social doctrine influence important social issues today?
- How do humility and simplicity direct our lives toward true happiness?

Unit 6 Respecting Life	Duration	3 Weeks
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Unit 6	Overview
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This unit on the Fifth Commandment addresses the sacredness of human life. It examines beginning of life and end of life issues, the Christian call to peacemaking and the demand to care for one's personal health.

Students will be able to master the following ideas through discussion, projects and testing:

- The Fifth Commandment demands that people respect and protect human life in all its stages from conceptions through natural death.
- The Church speaks out for the defense of human life when it is most vulnerable, especially in the womb and near the end of life.
- Christ's Law of Love calls people to reject revenge and retaliation and to engage in the challenge of becoming a peacemaker.
- Love of self is a fundamental principle of Christian Morality, calling people to take care of their physical and spiritual health.

Unit 6	Essential Questions
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- Why is respect for human life foundational to Christian morality?
- How are Christians called to respond to the issues of abortion, genetic engineering, euthanasia and suicide?
- How does the Christians call to be peacemakers become a deterrent to anger, revenge, violence and war?
- In what ways are Christians called to treat their bodies with respect?

Unit 7 Respecting Sexuality	Duration	3 Weeks
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Unit 7	Overview
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This unit uses Scripture and Church documents, particularly Saint John Paul II's teaching of the theology of the body and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, to encourage the development of chastity and modesty, to examine an understanding of sexual integrity and to identify sins against chastity.

Students will be able to master the following ideas through discussion, projects and testing:

- Human sexuality is an inherently good gift of God directed towards sharing in God's love and bringing new life into the world.
- The moral virtue of chastity leads to the sexual integrity of the human person.
- 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.
- Conception and the regulation of birth must be accomplished through moral means that reflect God's purpose for marriage.

Unit 7

Essential Questions

- What is the relationship between human sexuality and the human vocation to love and bring new life into the world?
- How does the virtue of chastity lead to sexual integrity and guard against sins against the Sixth and Ninth Commandments?
- Why is sexual intimacy morally permissible only in a married relationship?
- What are the moral means for contraception and the regulation of birth in marriage?