Damien Theology

In association with...

Theo I

Freshmen

Theo IA: Semester 1

Divine Revelation and the Story of God's People

This course asks the fundamental question, 'In what ways does God speak to us?' Students will examine the meaning of Divine Revelation and how it presents itself through Scripture and Tradition within the Church.

- Innate Desire: Why we search for God.
- Proofs for God: Reason and Revelation.
- Revelation Fundamentals: Old Verbum.
- Scripture and Tradition.
- Magisterium: Official guardian and interpreter.
- Interpretation: The Four Senses and Hermeneutics.
- Canon: How the Bible was formed.
- Divine Inspiration: How God speaks through human writers.
- Early-world period: Genesis and Mesopotamian Creation Story.
- Creation, Cain & Abel, Noah.
- Patriarchs/Matriarchs: Abraham & Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Joseph.
- Human and Homelessness: Service Learning.
- Exodus/ Egypt: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Exodus, Mt. Sinai, 10 Commandments, Tabernacle.
- Wanderings in the Desert: 12 Tribes.
- Conquest of the Promised Land and Judges.

Theo IB: Semester 2

The Story of God's People Continued

This course examines the christological progression of covenants that unfolds in the story of the Bible. Students will discover how the Bible culminates in the Word of God, Jesus.

- Royal kingdom: God, David, Jerusalem, Temple, Throne of Christ.
- Divided kingdom: Israel and Judah, the prophets.
- Exile: Synagogues for preserving tradition and worship.
- Return: Ezra, Nehemiah & rebuilding Temple.
- Maccabees: Greeks, Judas Maccabee, Maccabean Revolt, Hanukkah.
- Jesus and the Messianic Period: Jesus as Fulfillment, Incarnation, Holy Trinity, Mary, Teachings, Miracles, Last Things.
- Formation of the Gospels: Jesus, Apostolic Tradition.
- The Apostolic tradition and Acts.
- St. Paul and his Letters.
- Early Christianity.
- St. Dunstan's - model of Christ.
- The Corporal Acts of Mercy and how to live them in Service.

Theo II

Sophomores

Theo IIA: Semester 1

Jesus and His Mission of Salvation

This course explores the life and person of Jesus. Special emphasis is put on the messianic identity of Christ as the Savior of the world.

- Original Sin and the sin problem.
- Old Testament Prophecy/Messiah.
- Prophecy and typology.
- The world of Jesus. People, things and places in the time of the Gospel.
- Mary, mother of Jesus and of humanity.
- Incarnation and titles for Jesus.
- Jesus as Messiah overthrowing the Devil and Sin in words and deeds.
- Jesus' miracles and teachings.
- Jesus' Passion and death.
- Suffering of Jesus.
- Death of Jesus.
- Resurrection of Jesus.
- Ascension of Jesus.
- Redemption, Salvation and Sanctification.
- Prayer and the Paschal Mystery.
- Redemptive Suffering and Discipleship
- Last things.

Theo IIB: Semester 2

The Church

This course examines the nature of the Church as an extension of Jesus in the world as well as a human organization. Students are introduced to the Church from the vantage point of the many marks and models.

- The Holy Spirit, Pentecost and the Church's beginnings.
- The Church is one in leadership, belief and worship. Wounds to unity.
- The Church is holy in its members, in its mission, in its teaching, as a human and divine composition.
- The Church is catholic. The Church is universal in time and in space.
- The Church is apostolic. The Apostles and their teachings are the foundation of the Church through apostolic succession.
- Other Images
- Vatican II and Lumen Gentium.
- The Church in a post-Christian culture.
- Membership & vocations within the Church.

Theo III

Juniors

Theo IIIA: Semester 1

Morality

This course asks the fundamental question, 'How can we be happy?' In seeking an answer, students are led through the Beatitudes and the Commandments that God has given to us as a gift and guide toward a happy and virtuous life.

- Living in Christ, Sacraments and Virtue.
- Happiness and Beatitudes. How detachment is the way to holiness.
- Conscience. Its nature.
- Law of Love, Jesus' interpretation of the Commandments.
- Conscience. How to form it.
- The Moral Act.
- The 10 Commandments, Love of God.
- 4th Commandment, Honor parents and respect authority.
- 5th Commandment, Respect human life, Respect others.
- 6th and 9th Commandments, Respect human sexuality.
- 7th, 8th and 10 Commandments, Respect other's property and reputation.
- Death, judgment and eternity.

Theo IV

Seniors

Theo IIIB: Semester 2

The Sacraments

This course examines how God has made himself present to his people. Students develop a sacramental imagination as they explore the rich and beautiful signs, symbols and rituals within the seven sacraments of the Catholic Faith.

- The sin problem and the fallen world.
- Sacramental Imagination: The natural and supernatural, the visible and invisible.
- Intro to Liturgy and Sacraments.
- Intro to Baptism and Confirmation.
- Baptism: Rebirth into the family of God.
- Confirmation. Strengthened to spread and defend the Faith.
- Eucharist as Sacrifice. The measure of love is self-giving.
- Eucharist as Meal. Meals and naturally binding and unitive.
- Real presence and the Mass.
- Reconciliation. Redemption and Sanctification.
- Anointing of the Sick. The Catholic understanding of suffering.
- The meaning of Love. Christian Love.
- Holy Matrimony. A sign of Christ's love for the Church.
- Holy Orders. Called to be men for others.

Vocations and Social Justice or World Religions or Church History or Christian Leadership

2nd semester requirement...

Vocations

This course asks the fundamental question, 'What is God calling me to?' Students will examine the meaning of vocation and how it presents itself within the Church.

What we learn...

- God's call to each of us. Universal Call to Holiness.
- The meaning of Christian Service. Sacraments of Service.
- Biblical foundation of the Sacrament of Marriage.
- Marriage as a triangular relationship with spouse and with God.
- Marriage and family.
- How to Stay Married.
- The problem of divorce.
- Holy Orders and Priesthood. Mirroring Christ's love for the Church.
- Holy Orders the sacrament.
- How to discern the call to holy Orders.
- Religious Religious communities and diocesan charisms.
- The Consecrated Life.
- Being a witness to the Christian Faith in everyday life and career.
- Single life and Friendship.
- True happiness and false happiness.

1st semester electives...

Social Justice

This course introduces students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students will understand and experience how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.

What we learn...

- Foundational principles of Social Justice.
- Social Justice and Catholic Identity.
- Seven themes of Social Teachings: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Family, Community, and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, Solidarity, Care for God's Creation.
- Social Sin. Structural relationship between individuals and communities.
- Respecting human life and dignity.
- Promoting Peace.
- Care for God's Creation.
- The just distribution of material goods.
- Living justly.
- Social dimension of the Beatitudes.
- Prayer and Action.

1st semester electives...

World Religions

This course explores the ways in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Students discover important spiritual truths can also be found in other religions.

What we learn...

- The origin of religious awareness in human beings and its expression in the world's religions.
- Define what a religion is.
- Compare the different ways that religions form their unique worldviews.
- How each religion deals with 'Ultimate Questions' such as 'Who is God? What God like? How did everything in creation come to be? What is the meaning of life? What happens after death?'
- Comparisons between similar faiths.
- Assess the importance of religion in the modern world.
- Understand the meaning of religious life.
- How the Catholic Religion relates to other religious groups.
- How to understand and respect religious beliefs that are different from our own.

1st semester electives...

Church History

This course will supply the students with a general knowledge of the Church's history from apostolic times to the present. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by his throughout history through the Holy Spirit in spite of the human composition.

What we learn...

- Life of Christ and Apostolic Church – Incarnation to death of Jesus, Pentecost, Early Church - Jewish people- Samaritans-Pagans.
- Christianity under persecution - death of John to Constantine.
- First Christian Emperor - Constantine, Christianity with Greco-Roman empire - great migration of tribes – Constantine to Gregory.
- Christianity implanted in Teutonic, Celtic and Slavonic tribes.
- Rise of Papal Theocracy – rise of mendicant orders.
- Decay of medieval Church.
- Protestant Reformation – Luther – Tyndale – Zwinglians 1448
- Westphalia to French Revolution
- Revival of Christianity in Europe and America – explosion of global mission encircling the globe.
- French Revolution to NOW.

Christian Leadership

The senior leadership class is intended to help students prepare wisely for their respective roles as Seniors at Bishop Montgomery High School, as well as assisting them in living out the Gospel challenge of love. In conjunction with campus ministry it is intended to develop leadership retreats, liturgies, and school-wide faith-formation. Christian Leaders serve as mentors and big-brothers to freshmen. Participation in Christian Leaders is based on an application process.

"Without the constant presence of our Divine Master upon the altar in my poor chapel, I never could have persevered caring for all with the lepers of Molokai."

– St. Damien of Molokai

damien faith formation by the numbers

Adoration Days	Daily Masses	Service Learning Projects	Retreats
6	203	8	11

Reconciliation Days	School-Wide Prayers	Faith-Based Field Trips	Faith Based Assemblies
2	406	4	4