

# Theology

*Supported by academic rigor and spiritual experiences, we are committed to teaching and celebrating the Catholic faith while simultaneously appreciating differing faith perspectives. Through their theology classes, students will grow in their relationship with the loving God, while nurturing their loving relationships with others, self and creation. As a national service-learning leader school, we have embedded service learning into our curriculum. We challenge students to become agents of positive social change in alignment with Catholic Social Teaching. Students are required to enroll in one theology course each semester.*

## *Freshman*

*Freshmen are required to choose between either the year-long seminar course OR one semester each, of Introduction to Scripture and Christology: The Person of Jesus*

### **Theology 9: Seminar (YR)**

Two semesters, two credits.

Theology 9 Seminar is a year-long course that covers the same fundamentals as the traditional freshman courses but, in a seminar style – relying on conversation, critical thinking, experiential learning, and in-depth processing. The course is designed to meet the needs of students at varying points on their faith journey – those of deep faith, those seekers and students who are unsure of the role faith plays in their life but are open to exploring. Topics covered will range from Revelation and relationship, Scripture, and story, to the Incarnation and our call to holiness. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project.

### **Theology 9: Introduction to Scripture (S1)**

One semester, one credit.

This course gives students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, students will come to encounter the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In this course, students will learn about the Bible, authored by God through inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. Students will learn to navigate the Bible and become familiar with the major sections of the Bible. Throughout the course students will be introduced to a broad range of service experiences as they relate to loving God and others. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project.

### **Theology 9: Christology: The Person of Jesus (S2)**

One semester, one credit.

This course introduces students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course, students will understand Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God. Students will participate in several service projects where they will experience a broad range of needs in the community. Through this service, students will both learn who Jesus is, come to know Him on a personal level, and experience Christ in others as they follow in His footsteps to serve one another. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project.

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## *Sophomore*

***Sophomores are required to enroll in two semesters, two credits of Theology 10 as outlined below.***

### **Theology 10: Seminar (YR)**

One semester, one credit, required.

Theology Seminar 10 is a year-long course that covers the same fundamentals as in the traditional sophomore courses but in seminar-style format: relying on conversation, critical thinking, experiential learning, and in-depth processing. The course is designed to meet the needs of students at varying points on their faith journey - those of deep faith as well as those still seeking and unsure of the role faith plays in their life but are open to exploring. Topics covered will range from creation, the life, suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the institution of the Church and how this all relates to 21st century young people and adults today.

### **Theology 10: The Paschal Mystery (S1)**

One semester, one credit, required.

The word “paschal” comes from a Hebrew word meaning “the passing over” and in the Christian tradition, refers to the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. The Paschal Mystery is a core belief of Catholicism. This course will focus on how we as believers share in the promise and hope of the Resurrection. Through servant leadership and service learning, students will enter the lived experience of the Paschal Mystery.

### **Theology 10: Jesus Christ’s Mission in the Church (S2)**

One semester, one credit, required.

This course invites you into the reality of the Catholic Church as a visible sacrament of the Body of Christ in our world. In studying the scriptural and historical foundations, as well as the mystical reality of the Church’s presence throughout time, you will come to understand both the institutional and eternal reality of the Church as well as your place within it. This course will explore what happens when ordinary people encounter the living God and how this manifestation of individual faith necessitates a call outward to build a community of prayer, worship, and service.

## *Junior*

***Juniors will engage in a service practicum through the required curriculum. It is essential that juniors take great consideration as to which semester they are enrolling in the Discipleship in Society class. This class requires 35 hours of service outside of class time. Be sure to consider all extra-curricular commitments when selecting the semester of this class. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request, but it is not guaranteed.***

### **Theology 11: Discipleship in Society (S1) or (S2)**

One semester, one credit, required.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, one of Benilde-St. Margaret’s founding religious orders, are inspired to Jesus’ invitation to love God and to love our neighbor. Their mission urges us to move from the center where we are comfortable to the margins of vulnerability. Through this course students will deepen and broaden their understanding of the Gospel message and the Church’s social teaching. Students will learn how Christ’s concern for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is present today in the Church’s mission. Learning about the cycles of poverty and injustice that keep people oppressed, students will discern their roles in service to others. Each student will participate in a service practicum completing 35 hours with one agency during the semester.

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## *Junior*

### **Theology 11: Morality (S1) or (S2)**

One semester, one credit,  
required.

Through this course, students will discern how God is calling them to live a life of holiness through their actions. Students will learn moral concepts, philosophical and theological reasoning, and the tenets of the Catholic moral vision. Through various readings from Scripture, Church documents, and other literary and secular writings, students will use seminar-based discussion to address moral dilemmas facing their lives. Students will develop moral decision-making skills and learn to apply those skills through the formation and following of conscience. There is no service requirement for this course.

## *Senior*

***Seniors are required to enroll in one Theology course each semester and may choose from the electives listed below. Courses may not be repeated.***

### **Introduction to Philosophy (S1) or (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

In this course, we will ask some of life's greatest questions like: What is the nature and purpose of humanity? Do humans have a soul? Is human personality created by nature or by experience? What is justice? and many more. We will search for answers in collaboration with classmates. We will think deeply, discuss challenging topics, and grow in understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Our search for these answers will consider both Catholic and non-Catholic perspectives.

### **Faith and Sports (S1) or (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This senior level course seeks to engage students in an academic and faith-filled exploration of their involvement in sports and other activities. Focused on theological principles and virtue, students will delve into how sports can help us navigate life's biggest questions and challenges, especially as it pertains to their faith. Through this course, students will also learn practical skills to help them become servant leaders, develop true character, and equip them for life beyond sports.

### **Christian Vocations (S1) or (S2)**

seniors

One semester, one credit, open to

This course is a study of the adult Catholic Christian life and the process of discerning one's vocation in it. Students will learn about and reflect on their identity, their current belief about God, the universal call to all to holiness, the world of work and money, sexuality, marriage, and the religious life. This course utilizes self-reflection, discussion, and a variety of real-life scenarios and simulations to foster learning. Ultimately students will learn what it means to live an adult Christian life dedicated to God, others, and self to achieve lasting happiness.

### **World Religions (S1) or (S2)**

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

Students will explore, compare, and contrast the world's religions. In a systematic and analytical, yet empathetic way. We will study a variety of beliefs and practices encountered in five major religions of the world.

### **Thinking Theologically (S1)**

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors.

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Three credit college level option. See page 56 for full course information.