

## **Introduction to Catholicism I, Prep**

### **Course Description**

Prep Religion-Introduction to Catholicism-is a survey of the basic elements of our faith tradition. The course is based according to the Catechism: our Creed/what we believe; our Celebration of our Faith/liturgy and sacrament; our Life in Christ/our vocation to beatitude in society; Prayer. The course is designed to intensify the study of Catholicism for our students who have attended Catholic elementary schools, while at the same time, engaging our students who have no formation. Academic rigor, as stated in the Church's documents concerning religious formation in education, is expected: study guides, quizzes, tests, in-class writings, essays, verbal presentations and a research paper. Along with the textbook, students will study Scripture and the Catechism. Still, amidst the academic study, each student will constantly be invited to encounter her or his own spirituality. Likewise, though we will study the Church's magisterium, students will be asked to formulate their own perspectives upon the more subjective aspects of Catholicism.

### **Course Goals**

- Students will learn the basic elements of Catholicism
- Students will learn why we believe what we believe
- Students will understand the Biblical basis to the Creed
- Students will be introduced to the basic tenet of 'grace build on nature'
- Students will experience St. Augustine's maxim: "Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand"
- Students will be invited to engage their spirituality

### **Course Objectives**

- Students will learn to understand the Creed
- Students will learn how to read and study Scripture
- Students will learn how to fully utilize the Catechism
- Students will encounter deductive reasoning in their study
- Students will express their own perceptions and understandings