

Basic Level

Spirituality/Theology Courses

The intent of these courses is to present theology in a manner that not only informs, but also helps to form the spiritual life and practice of the participant. For this reason, the sessions are taught using theological reflection as the methodology. After completing the four Theology/Spirituality Basic Level Courses, participants can choose a particular area of ministry for Skills training, described on the following pages.

Course 1: Introduction to Scripture (10 clock hours)

Session 1: Understanding How the Scripture Came to Be

To foster an understanding of the unique quality of Scripture as God's inspired Word, which is rooted in a particular time and place and is also timeless in application.

Session 2: Highlights of the Jewish Scripture and Our Old Testament

To explore the richness and diversity of the Old Testament and Jewish history up to the time of Jesus.

Session 3: The Life and Times of Jesus and the Early Church

To convey a basic understanding of the world in which Jesus and the early church lived, and how that world impacted what Jesus taught and how the Church and Scripture developed.

Session 4: Christian Scriptures: How the Gospels Came to Be

To create a desire to know the living Jesus today by understanding the way the four evangelists recorded their portraits of the risen Jesus for their communities.

Session 5: Early Christian Teaching Apart from the Gospels

To introduce the diversity of the early Christian communities and the way in which the letters and other writings of the New Testament are a real response to their needs.

Course 2: Introduction to Jesus (10 clock hours)

Session 1: Who Is Jesus?

To understand the significance of the Incarnation, the name of Jesus and the various titles for Jesus used in the Scriptures, and to be introduced to two approaches to Christology.

Session 2: Jesus' Prayer

To deepen our understanding of how Jesus prayed and what he taught about prayer so that we may join in his prayer.

Session 3: Jesus Calls to Discipleship

To understand Jesus' call to discipleship in order to more fully respond to his call.

Session 4: Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem

To follow Jesus through the experience of his passion to his death on the cross.

Session 5: Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost

To enter into the Church's experience of Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost.

Course 3: Introduction to Church History (10 clock hours)

Session 1: The Church: An Historical Overview

To approach the contemporary church more realistically and compassionately, by realizing the Church did not develop in a vacuum. It both influenced and was influenced by many historical factors during its 20 centuries of development

Session 2: The Image of Jesus: An Historical Overview

To study the Church's response to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?" in various historical contexts, in order to revitalize our own response.

Session 3: Eucharistic Liturgy: An Historical Overview

To explore developments in the Eucharistic Liturgy over the centuries, noting the effects these changes had on Christians of each era, in order to deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist.

Session 4: Sacraments of Initiation: An Historical Overview

To consider the development of the initiation process in our church, which includes Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, in order to increase our sense of the importance of ongoing conversion for Christians of all times.

Session 5: Sacraments of Healing and Service: An Historical Overview

To review the history of the Sacraments of Penance, Anointing, Orders, and Marriage, in order to deepen our understanding and appreciation of these Sacraments in the life of the Church.

Course 4: Introduction to the Church (10 clock hours)

Session 1: The Church Today in Faith and Community

To explore the meaning of church through the images offered in Scripture and the Vatican II documents, in order to deepen our appreciation for who we are as the People of God.

Session 2: The Church Today in Sacramental Life

To discover the Sacraments as celebrations of the saving action of Christ in our midst, in order to enter more fully into the sacramental life of the Body of Christ.

Session 3: The Church Today in Worship

To appreciate the many facets of liturgy and the liturgical cycle, in order to participate in public worship with greater understanding.

Session 4: The Church Today in Moral Decision-making

To explore ways of following the teachings of Jesus and the Church, and of expressing our Baptismal commitment in our decision-making.

Session 5: The Church Today in Social Concerns and Awareness

To explore the Social Teaching of the Church in order to discover ways of expressing our Baptismal commitment and living the Gospel through concern for others in our everyday lives.