Archdiocese of San Francisco Secondary Catholic Schools

**Essential Outcomes for Religious Education**

The secondary schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco teach from a Catholic Christian perspective while welcoming people of all faith traditions. We seek to develop a knowledge and experience of faith that equally includes:

1. Recognition of the ongoing invitation to grow in relationship with God and to develop faith and spirituality;
2. Understanding of Scripture and the living Tradition of the Church as guided by the Holy Spirit;
3. Articulation of and a response to the call to live as Catholics in community;
4. Formation of conscience rooted in Gospel values that inform moral decision-making;
5. Active response to the call of Jesus to be advocates for the common good through works of charity and justice;
6. Exploring and experiencing Catholic traditions of personal and communal prayer as expressed in sacrament and liturgy.

**Religious Studies Department Vision Statement**

We are a community of educators who value and practice the teachings of Jesus Christ. While respecting that our students come from all types of faith backgrounds and offer insight into God’s life-giving presence, we assent to the fullness of truth in both Scripture and the Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. As faith-filled men and women, we study and practice our craft as theologians, striving to bring students and the school community closer to the Gospel message of the Kingdom of God. This department, while academically challenging for our students, also attends to their spiritual thirst, inviting them to enter the Mystery of Christ.

Saint Ignatius’s Religious Studies Program embodies the six tasks of catechesis outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* outlined by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. These are:

1. Promoting knowledge of the faith
2. Knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and of the sacraments
3. Moral formation in Jesus Christ
4. Teaching how to pray with Christ
5. Preparing the student to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church
6. Promoting a missionary spirit that prepares the student to be present as a Christian in society

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2. *Six Dimensions for Catholic Formation, secondary document, Our Hearts Burning Within Us*
Religious Studies Department Mission Statement

As companions of Jesus, in Religious Studies we are committed to education that:

- Creates experiences where students and teachers encounter the living God through shared inquiry, discernment, liturgy and prayer
- Challenges us to respond to the call of Jesus, as St. Ignatius did, by becoming leaders of integrity, rooted in courage, conscience and compassion
- Transforms us as Church, acting in a diverse world with a faith that seeks justice.

Religious Studies Department Enduring Understandings

The Religious Studies Department is committed to a curriculum that educates and inspires students to be advocates for justice and peace. The curriculum is intentionally designed to promote growth in each of the areas set forth in The Grad at Grad: Profile 2020 and as models for Christian living, we dedicate ourselves to providing learning experiences that support students in their intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual growth. Together, we are challenged to embrace the tenants of the Grad at Grad and to strive for the magis. We are all called to be "men and women with and for others" and to know that "God is present in all things." This recognition binds us together in creating a humanity that guarantees reverence, respect, and dignity for all that God has created.

**THE GRAD AT GRAD: PROFILE 2020**

I. OPEN TO GROWTH

A graduate of St. Ignatius has assumed responsibility for personal growth - intellectual, spiritual, and social - and has developed openness to the diversity of the surrounding world. At the time of graduation the St Ignatius student will:

- have contributed to and benefited from all areas of the school community (academic, spiritual and extracurricular);
- demonstrate an openness to learning from all sources and exercise tolerance and respect for divergent points of view
- demonstrate a commitment to the pursuit of excellence in all areas, realizing that learning is an ongoing process worthy of a life-long commitment.

II. INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT

A graduate of St. Ignatius exhibits mastery of a four-year college preparatory curriculum and has developed intellectual skills that go beyond academic excellence and requirements for college entrance by integrating Gospel values and our Ignatian heritage. At the time of graduation the St. Ignatius Student will:
• demonstrate the ability to think critically, act creatively, integrate Gospel values, analyze and solve problems in a variety of disciplines;

• demonstrate effective written, oral, technological, and collaborative communication skills and possess the foundational knowledge necessary for successfully pursuing an academic discipline in advanced education; demonstrate the ability to synthesize information from diverse sources and use that information to evaluate issues of contemporary life.

III. RELIGIOUS

A graduate of St. Ignatius shows a basic knowledge of Scripture, doctrines, and practices of the Catholic Church while examining personal religious beliefs. The graduate explores and validates faith through further study, participation in a faith Community, and prayer experience. At the time of graduation the St. Ignatius Student will:

• demonstrate an understanding of the Church’s teaching about Jesus Christ and his mission as well as the sacramental expressions of that mission;

• display an understanding of the relationship between faith in Jesus and being a person for and with others” which manifests itself in action based on the Church’s Cc.-ldling Oil social justice; evaluate moral choices and issues based on a well-informed conscience; develop a knowledge of other religions and a respect for their beliefs; grow in personal spirituality and develop an ability to articulate one’s own personal faith.

IV. LOVING

A graduate of St. Ignatius has begun to establish his or her own identity and move beyond self-interest by forming deeper relationships with others, by valuing personal friendships and the global community. At the time of graduation the St. Ignatius student will:

• demonstrate an awareness of God’s love by extending that love to family, friends, and community; demonstrate the ability to form healthy relationships and make healthy and mature lifestyle decisions;

• demonstrate a loving attitude by overcoming personal prejudices and stereotypes; act as "a person for and with others” by serving people in need and developing and supporting community.

V. COMMITTED TO JUSTICE

A graduate of St. Ignatius is aware of the many needs of the local and global communities and is beginning to use his or her time and talents to work toward a just society in the context of Christian faith. The graduate is preparing to take a place in the community as a competent, concerned, compassionate, and responsible member. At the time of graduation the St. Ignatius student will:
• exercise a personal value system based on the Gospel message and thus be able to confront the moral ambiguities promoted by contemporary culture;

• understand the connection between personal faith and the need for commitment to a just society, and, in that commitment, recognize the needs of the disadvantaged;

• recognize the global nature of many current social problems, including the protection of the natural environment, and the responsibility to address these problems for the benefit of the human community.

VI. LEADERS IN COLLABORATION

A graduate of St. Ignatius has become aware of and begun to practice the basic skills facilitating leadership and collaboration. The graduate has had opportunities to exercise leadership in the academic, extracurricular, and campus ministry domains. At the time of graduation the St. Ignatius Student will:

• demonstrate basic leadership skills, including integrity, vision, creativity, a strong work ethic, and the ability to gain trust that facilitates the development of leadership;

• speak honestly and persuasively, handle criticism with emotional maturity, and maintain a focus guided by the ethical values derived from our Catholic and Ignatian heritage; demonstrate an ability to influence others in a way that promotes justice and Gospel values.

Religious Studies Core Curriculum Concepts

Sacred Scripture “Gospel Values”

Catholic Moral Teaching and Catholic Social Teaching

Church, Liturgy and Sacramental Traditions

Jesus as Divine and Human

Prayer and Discernment

Ignatian Charism

Religious Studies Curriculum Outcomes

The Religious Studies curriculum is developed to integrate a critical and experiential understanding of Catholicism. The SI Faculty Handbook states that studies in theology are essential for the development of the student’s understanding of Christian values and for his/her formation as an educated Christian leader. In order to further implement the growth and development of each student, a continual emphasis will be placed upon the balance between the academic and experiential components of Christianity. To insure this balance,
frequent religious services and activities are provided for students on campus as well as the opportunity to become involved in community-service endeavors which connect the learned experience with the practical and transforming lived experiences of the Christian faith. Work with socially disadvantaged people is encouraged as well as opportunities offered for students to become active in social justice issues. The Religious Studies curriculum is designed to embody the six tasks of catechesis outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* outlined by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In addition, Curriculum will reinforce the following:

- **Competence** – Knowledge of the Church; building foundational skills; critical analysis and synthesis, writing skills, reflection and discernment.
- **Conscience** – Moral development; Faith formation; Ignatian spirituality; discernment and prayer;
- **Compassion** - How does our faith teach us to live out the Gospel message?

What should our students know when they graduate?

What does it mean to be Catholic?

- How am I part of the rich scriptural and sacramental traditions of the Church?
- How do I read, interpret and pray with Scripture?

What does it mean to know God?

- How do I come to know my Creator through Scripture and Sacraments?
- How do I build a lifelong relationship with God?
- How do I come to know Jesus through Scripture?
- How does my knowledge of God’s revelation inform my self-perception and actions?

What does it mean to be Ignatian- to see “God in all things”?

- What role does Jesus play in Ignatian Identity?
- What does it mean to be part of the Ignatian Family?
- What is required of me as an Ignatian formed in the teaching of Jesus Christ?
- What role does prayer, sacramental experience, and Ignatian discernment play in my life?

What does it mean to be a person of Faith?

- Where am I in my faith life? Where do I need to go and how do I get there?
- How do I celebrate my faith through the Sacraments?
- How do I profess my faith in Liturgy?
- How do I profess my faith in my community?
- How do I model my faith in Jesus Christ?
What does it mean to be an advocate for Social Justice?

➢ How is my Church an advocate for justice in the world?
➢ How does my Catholic identity inform my Ignatian identity?

What does it mean to be a Disciple in the modern world?

➢ How do I embrace and model the life of Jesus Christ?
➢ How do I respect those who challenge my beliefs?
➢ How do I respect those who wrong me?
➢ How do I enter into productive dialogue with people who represent different faith traditions?
➢ How do I advocate for and live the Gospel message?
➢ How do I continue to grow in my faith and in my sacramental life?
➢ How do I live a life that celebrates the belief that God is present in all things?

Religious Studies Course Offerings

INTRODUCTION
The graduation requirements at St. Ignatius College Preparatory include seven semesters of Religious Studies. The curriculum is designed to help students understand their relationship with God and their human brothers and sisters in light of the Scriptures and the teachings of the Catholic Church in the modern world. The Saint Ignatius’s Religious Studies curriculum embodies the six tasks of catechesis outlined in the National Directory for Catechesis outlined by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. These are:

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 100 - TOWARD AN IGNATIAN VISION (8100)

➢ Grade Level - 9
➢ Length - One Semester
➢ Type of Course - Core lower division course required for graduation
➢ Prerequisite - None
➢ Criteria for Enrollment - All freshmen students must enroll
➢ Course Description - The students will be introduced to an overview of Catholicism by understanding humankind’s search for God (coming to an appreciation and respect for world religions) revealed through Judeo-Christian history and the sacramental practice of the Catholic Church. The students will become familiar with different models of the Church and sacraments as symbols and rituals, especially the sacraments of initiation (baptism and confirmation). Eucharist is the core of the course and its challenge to live as a growing community of believers. Special
emphasis will be given to the students’ call to discipleship and their role in living out “church” in their lives.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 200 - UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE (8200)**

- Grade Level - 10
- Length - One Year
- Type of Course - Core lower division course required for graduation
- Prerequisite - Religious Studies 100
- Criteria for Enrollment - All students must enroll
- **Course Description** - This course will expose the student to the rich scriptural tradition of the Catholic Faith. The course will concentrate on “all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ”. [Bishops Documents] It will include critical analysis, exegesis, personal reflection on daily living and relationships, strategies for making choices consistent with the Gospel values of compassion, love and commitment.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 300 - FUNDAMENTALS OF ETHICS, MORALITY AND JUSTICE (8300)**

- Grade Level - 11
- Length - One Year
- Type of Course - Core upper division course required for graduation
- Prerequisites - Religious Studies 100, 200
- Criteria for Enrollment - All students must enroll
- **Course Description** - The foundation to this course is the call to uphold and promote the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. This two-semester course engages students in the broad philosophical and theological discussions of good and evil, right and wrong, freedom and duty, in and beyond the practical moral decisions of everyday life. The first semester establishes an understanding of human dignity, informed conscience, and emphasizes a spectrum of principles and virtues. The second semester introduces the tradition of social justice, Catholic social teaching, and the common good. Students will tackle some of the most compelling dilemmas and dreams of the human experience.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 400 - THE PATH TO FAITH (8400)**

- Grade Level - 12
- Length - One Semester
- Type of Course - Core upper division course required for graduation
- Prerequisites - Religious Studies 100, 200, 300
• Criteria for Enrollment - All seniors must enroll
• Course Description - The Path to Faith is a one-semester course that synthesizes all the student has learned over the past three years. It will incorporate a study and practice of Ignatian spirituality and vision in the context of challenging students to “own their faith journey.” Students will be encouraged to make practical applications and consider the implications of coursework in their daily lives and future choices.

SENIOR ELECTIVES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 444 - LITURGY AND PRAYER (8444)

• Grade Level - 12
• Length - One Semester
• Type of Course - Elective meeting graduation requirement of seven semesters of Religious Studies.
• Prerequisite - Religious Studies 100, 200, 300
• Criteria for Enrollment - None
• Course Description - An exploration of the mystery of prayer and the Church’s liturgy, specifically the Mass. Through study and practical experience students will grow in a lived understanding of personal and universal meanings of worship and prayer. The course includes classroom work on the history, theology, liturgical music, and spirituality of prayer and worship. Students will develop practical and creative skills through preparation of and ministry within school liturgies.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 447 - SPIRITUALITY EAST & WEST - THE WORLD'S WISDOM TRADITIONS (8447)

• Grade Level - 12
• Length - One Semester
• Type of Course - Elective meeting graduation requirement of seven semesters of Religious Studies.
• Prerequisite - Religious Studies 100, 200, 300
• Criteria for Enrollment - None
• Course Description - The goal of this course is to introduce students to the major religious traditions that exist today, “wisdom traditions” that have been with us for the past 6,000 years, shaping our culture and history. We will explore the major traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism and the indigenous cultures of the Native Americans and Aborigines. It is hoped that students will gain a better understanding of the variety of views that exist in our complex and diverse world, thus foster a genuine respect for these
other” traditions. The goal of these wisdom traditions is to help us human beings become better and more authentic people, and so, through this course, perhaps we can learn what it means to be a good and authentic human person. During the course we will also explore the practice of meditation and its implications for mindfulness in the world. Finally, we will discuss ways for creating peace in ourselves and in our world given what these traditions reveal to us.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 460 - HUMAN SEXUALITY (8460)

- Grade Level - 12
- Length - One Semester
- Type of Course - Elective meeting graduation requirement of one of seven semesters.
- Prerequisite - Religious Studies 100, 200, 300
- Criteria for Enrollment - None

Course Description - This course is an exploration of the study of human sexuality as an all-embracing, all pervasive gift of God to each and every human being. Viewed from the physical (biological and psychological) and spiritual (moral) points of view, this class will treat sexuality as it is dealt with in modern science, contemporary society, the Word of God, and the teachings of the Church. Emphasis will be placed on helping students develop a healthy appreciation of their own sexuality and stress the importance of integrating values that promote self respect and integrity in both the way they reason and ultimately in the way they choose to live.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 470 - THE IGNATIAN WAY: AMDG (8470)

- Grade Level - 12
- Length - One Semester
- Type of Course - Elective meeting graduation requirement of one of seven semesters.
- Prerequisite - Religious Studies 100, 200, 300
- Criteria for Enrollment - None

Course Description - In this course, students will encounter the person of St. Ignatius of Loyola, his spirituality, and his methods of prayer. Through readings, film, discussions, daily journaling and a variety of prayer experiences, students will come to a better understanding of themselves as young adults in the 21st century and recognize and respond to Ignatius’s invitation to “find God in all things.” Ideally, students should have a desire to encounter God through the person of Jesus Christ and to develop or deepen a personal relationship with Him under the guidance of St. Ignatius and a selection of men and women who have emulated his spirituality. Students should be willing to share their faith journey and prayer experiences in writing and in small group format.
RELIGIOUS STUDIES 471 - TELLING STORIES: FAITH, FILM, AND FICTION (8471)

- Grade Level - 12
- Length - One Semester
- Type of Course - Elective meeting graduation requirement of one of seven semesters.
- Prerequisite - Religious Studies 100, 200, 300
- Criteria for Enrollment - None
- **Course Description** - In this semester course, students will explore and examine the parameters of the “Catholic Imagination,” investigating the presence of God in everyday life. Catholics believe that we inhabit a sacramental world, where God can be seen, heard, observed and felt. Through prayer, reflection, writing and examining the works of writers, artists and filmmakers, we will deepen our awareness of God’s presence in creation.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 472 - SCIENCE AND RELIGION (8472)

- Grade Level - 12
- Length - One Semester
- Type of Course - Elective meeting graduation requirement of one of seven semesters.
- Prerequisite - Religious Studies 100, 200, 300
- Criteria for Enrollment - None
- **Course Description** - Science & Religion is a one-semester elective that introduces students to the philosophical, theological, and ethical relationship between science and religion. Both Science and religion are quests for understanding that fundamentally shape our world, but these disciplines ask different questions and follow different methods. While they may appear to conflict, closer examination reveals room for a deeper engagement through fruitful dialogue and constructive integration.

SACRED SYMBOLS (6130): Studio Art C/Sacred Symbols

- Grade Level - 12
- Type of Course - This will also fulfill the one semester senior elective Religious Studies requirement for graduation.
- **See Course Description in the Fine Arts section**