

**Confirmation Syllabus**

9th Grade - Year 1

Classes Weekly at the Faith Formation Center

6:30-8:00 PM

*Dates in White and Yellow - required class dates      Dates in green recommended youth activities**Dates in blue Special Liturgical Dates and Holy Days*

Date	Material Covered	Concepts
September 26	5:45 PM Parish Community Center(PCC)  <b>KICKOFF!</b> <b>Family and Parish Faith Night</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pizza 5:45 PM - Hospitality Hall</li> <li>Family / Parish Event + Meet and Greet / Rally</li> </ul>
October 3	<b>Lesson 1 - Why Am I Here?</b> (Chosen - Introductory Session)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expectations - Commitment - Challenges</li> <li>Choosing a sponsor</li> </ul>
October 6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>The Lie, the Fear, &amp; the Fall</i></b></p>	<p>Since mankind's first fall, we've all been battling sin in the depths of our wandering hearts. It seems that no matter how hard we try we keep finding ourselves falling back into its company.</p> <p>But what is it at the core of sin that keeps calling out to us? What was it in the Garden of Eden that pulled on the hearts of Adam and Eve in such a way that it could cause them to turn from the God who loved them?</p> <p>Join us as we let the truth of the Gospel shed light onto these questions. If we're willing, the love of Jesus will bring healing to the wounds of Eden that we find in our own hearts.</p> <p>Fr. Eric Lundgren is the Pastor of Saints Joachim and Anne Catholic Church in Shakopee, MN. His on-fire faith is engaging and contagious!</p> <p>David Calavitta hails from California. He's a passionate Catholic speaker in love with Christ and His Church. David is a popular national speaker at major Catholic youth conferences. He served with NET Ministries and now is now Director of Design &amp; Marketing for LifeTeen International. <i>NET Ministries 2018</i>)</p>
October 10	<b>Parent Session (Parent's only)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Chosen Program</li> <li>Expectations</li> <li>Support</li> <li>Parent Guide</li> </ul>
October 17	<b>No Class MEA Week</b>	
October 24	<b>Lesson 2 - What Makes Me Happy?</b> (Discovering God as the Source)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Happiness in the World</li> <li>Man's Desire for More</li> <li>Come and See - God's Invitation</li> <li>St. Anthony the Great</li> <li>Challenge</li> </ul>
October 31	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Hallow's Eve</b> Be sure to come to Mass tomorrow for <b>The Feast of All Saints</b> - a Holy Day</p>

November 1 Thursday	<b>All Saints Day</b> (Holy day)	Instituted as a Feast Day to honor all Saints - both known and unknown
November 3	<b>Gift Expo</b> <b>Youth Needed!</b>	This event is a fundraiser for youth activities sponsored by the parish, especially the Catholic Heart Mission Trip Youth volunteers and a youth presence is a great asset to this event.
November 3	<b>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</b>  <b>Praying the Mass Like Never Before</b>  <b><i>What Defines You?</i></b>  Mass and Evening Program with Fr. Mike Schmitz	Whether it's our reputation as the smartest person in the class or office, or a signature beard that makes us look like Chuck Norris, we all have something distinct that helps define us.  In the end, though, when everything else fades away, there's only one part of our identity that matters.  Join over a thousand young people and discover what that 'part' is for you.  <b>Fr. Michael Schmitz</b> is the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Duluth. His passion for Jesus and his love for the Church are evident through his unique gift of anointed teaching and preaching. His message inspires and challenges listeners to deeper faith. He reaches tens of thousands through conferences and his highly popular video presentations on "Ascension Presents." <i>NET Ministries 2018</i>
November 7	<b>Lesson 3 - What's Your Story God?</b> (A Look at Salvation History)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's Plan</li> <li>• Jesus is the fullest revelation of God</li> <li>• God gives the Church witnesses</li> <li>• Hearing and responding to the Gospel - a call to greatness</li> <li>• St. Francis de Sales</li> </ul>
November 14	Protecting Youth and Children <b><i>Created in the Image of God</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandated course focusing on helping children to make good and safe choices and knowing how to get help when needed</li> <li>• Children are reminded that they and all of God's children are created in His image and need to see themselves and others as special, and deserving of respect, in all parts of their lives.</li> </ul>
November 21	<b>No Class -</b> <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Enjoy your Holiday with family and friends. Do not forget to thank God for the blessings in your life and to keep your heart filled with a spirit of gratitude.</b>
November 28	<b>Lesson 4 - How do I know God is real?</b> (Understanding Divine Revelation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowing God through creation and human reason</li> <li>• Knowing God in Revelation (Scripture and Tradition)</li> <li>• Faith as a virtue</li> <li>• St. Thomas Aquinas</li> </ul>
December 2	<b>Advent Begins</b>	During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Word who brought light into darkness. It is a particularly fitting time to welcome the light of God's forgiveness into the dark places of our sinful lives by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Excerpted from <b>How to Celebrate Christmas as a Catholic</b> , copyright © 2005, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc
December 5 (PCC)	<b>Advent Family Event</b> <b>(First Week of Advent)</b>	Celebrating Advent
December 8	<b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b> Holy Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A feast of the Conception of Mary began in the Eastern church in the 7th century. It came to the West in the 8th century and in the 11th Century it received the name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal church</li> <li>• In 1854 Pius IX issued the infallible statement: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race was preserved free from all stain of original sin."</li> <li>• This privilege of Mary derives from God's having chosen her as Mother of the Savior; thus she received the benefits of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception. This great gift to Mary, an ordinary human being just like us, was fitting because she was destined to be the Mother of God.</li> </ul>

		The purity and holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a model for all Christians
December 9	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Light the first and second candle on your Advent wreath.	How are you preparing your heart for Jesus?
December 1	<b>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</b>  <b>Tony Melendez in Concert!</b>	<b>Tony Melendez</b> may have been born without arms but that has not stopped him from singing, playing the guitar, and sharing the faith with Catholic young people. He was born without arms as a result of his mother taking the prescription drug thalidomide. Growing up, Tony began playing and singing in the Los Angeles area. His life was changed forever when he performed for Pope John Paul II (now, a Saint) at World Youth Day before a live audience of thousands and a TV audience of millions. It was there at WYD that John Paul II told him, "My wish for you is to continue giving this hope to all the people." Since then Tony has traveled throughout the United States and 40 foreign countries, 200 dioceses, World Youth Days, the Vatican, NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference), "March For Life" Rallies, and made countless TV appearance on all major networks. <i>NET Ministries 2018</i> )
December 12	<b>Lesson 4 - How do I know God is real?</b> (Understanding Divine Revelation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowing God through creation and human reason</li> <li>• Knowing God in Revelation (Scripture and Tradition)</li> <li>• Faith as a virtue</li> <li>• St. Thomas Aquinas</li> </ul>
December 16	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Light the first, second & <b>third</b> candle on your Advent wreath.	The pink candle represents <b>JOY</b> the Joy we receive at the birth of Jesus!
December 19	Christmas Celebration and lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God sends a Savior!</li> </ul>
December 23	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Light the last Advent Candle</b> ( <i>all four are now lit</i> ) <i>We look forward to the birth of Our Lord, Jesus!</i>
December 25	<b>Merry Christmas!</b> (Holy Day of Obligation) <b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>Celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the World</b> <b>PRAISE GOD JESUS IS BORN!!</b>
December 26	<b>No Class (Christmas Vacation)</b>	•
January 1	<b>New Year's Day - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b> (Holy Day of Obligation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace" This solemnity, falling on New Year's Day, is also designated the World Day of Peace (David Bennett 8/15/2008 . Church Year. Net )</li> <li>• one of the oldest feasts of the Church, it was changed to this date following Vatican II, by Pope Paul VI in 1974</li> </ul>
January 2	<b>Catechist Appreciation</b> <b>No Class</b>	Take a moment to say a prayer for your Catechists.

<p>January 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Men's and Women's Evening Sessions</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Self Mastery and Social Media</b> <i>(Women's Breakout Session with Kalley Yanta)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>No Guts, No Glory</b> <i>(Men's Breakout Session with Pat Millea)</i></p>	<p><b>Self Mastery and Social Media (Women's Breakout Session with Kalley Yanta)</b> What role does social media play in your life? How much time do you spend each day on Snapchat and Instagram? Have you ever felt insecure after looking at friends' social media posts? Have you seen images online that you can't seem to erase from your memory but would like to?</p> <p>You will discover the powerful effect that social media use is having on interpersonal communication, incidences of depression and anxiety, insomnia, and self esteem. This presentation will help you identify whether you are in control of your social media use or if it has gotten out of control. Kalley will also offer guidance on how to achieve balance and why staying rooted in the Catholic faith is critical in today's hi-tech culture.</p> <p><b>No Guts, No Glory (Men's Breakout Session with Pat Millea)</b> Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been approved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)</p> <p>You, a man of God, are called to greatness! And we know through our own human experience that true greatness only comes through courageous perseverance in the face of trials. So embrace the struggle, push through with the strength of the Holy Spirit, and receive the crown of life! . <i>NET Ministries 2018)</i></p>
<p>January 9</p> <p><b>Welcome Back!</b></p>	<p>Sponsor / Student Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it mean to be a witness</li> <li>• The sponsor as "ongoing" mentor</li> <li>• How are you doing?</li> </ul>
<p>January 16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson 5 - Who is Jesus?</b> <i>(The Person and Mission of Christ)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "But who do you say that I am?" Mt 16:15</li> <li>• Liar, Lunatic,... or Lord"</li> <li>• Why did Jesus come to earth and become human?</li> <li>• St. Theresa of Avila</li> </ul>
<p>January 23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson 6 - Why Be Catholic?</b> <i>(Discovering the Church Jesus Founded)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catholic Church not just one of many "churches"</li> <li>• Why did Jesus establish the Church</li> <li>• Marks of the Church</li> <li>• St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)</li> </ul>
<p>January 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson 7 - Where am I going?</b> <i>(A Look at the Four Last Things)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death is a part of Life</li> <li>• Eternity is real</li> <li>• Purgatory is a state of purification</li> <li>• Every human being who ever lived will stand before God</li> <li>• St. Sebastian</li> </ul>
<p>February 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>The Call of a Lifetime</i></b></p>	<p>The time is now as the modern world awaits the emergence of a handful of spiritual heroes and heroines who will serve the Church as priests, religious sisters, and religious brothers. These young men and women are specially called to be witnesses of hope to a world in desperate need of the Good News!</p> <p>The question is not <i>will</i> God raise up great women and men for this mission. The question is <i>who</i> will God raise up? And the answer is: those you least expect.</p> <p><b>Archbishop Bernard Hebda</b> of Saint Paul &amp; Minneapolis will be with us for this great event. <b>Fr. David Blume</b>, Vocations Director, will be joined by a dynamic team of Religious Sisters and Brothers for this blessed evening. <i>NET Ministries 2018</i></p>

February 6 Coon Rapids	<b>Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)</b>	Bus \$10.00/ to the Anoka - Feed My Starving Children, we are looking for help with parent supervision
February 13	<b>Lesson 7 - Where am I going?</b> (A Look at the Four Last Things)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death is a part of Life</li> <li>• Eternity is real</li> <li>• Purgatory is a state of purification</li> <li>• Every human being who ever lived will stand before God</li> <li>• St. Sebastian</li> </ul>
February 20	<b>Lesson 8 - How do I get there?</b> (The Power and Purpose of the Sacraments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God created us to share in His life and gave us the Sacrament to give us that grace</li> <li>• The Sacraments are real signs of grace given to us by Christ</li> <li>• Sacrament overview</li> <li>• St. Terese of Lisieux</li> </ul>
February 27	<b>Lesson 9 - When did my journey begin?</b> (Baptism, Your Initiation into God's Family)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water as a sign in Salvation History</li> <li>• Form, Matter and Effects of Baptism</li> <li>• Fruits of Baptism</li> <li>• St. Josephine Bakhita</li> </ul>
March 2	<b>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</b>  <b><i>Love is Bigger</i></b>	<p>Is the Catholic Church really small-minded about gender and sexuality? Do we really know the whole story? In a world of stereotypes and labels, God invites us to a bigger sense of who we really are. Jesus invites us to a love that is bigger and more beautiful than we can possibly imagine.</p> <p>Anna Carter, founder of Eden Invitation, will share her testimony of chaste, abundant life with same sex desires in the Catholic Church.</p> <p>Come with an open mind and an open heart to discover the power of Christian teaching on identity. Walk away with a fuller understanding of what Jesus said in Matthew 19 ("in the beginning it was not so") and how not only does "the beginning" illuminate the Church's teaching on sexuality and gender, it's also a powerful expression of God's love for His children. <i>NET Ministries 2018</i></p>
March 6	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Family Faith Night  <i>at the Parish Center</i>	No homework; this is the <b>beginning of Lent</b> prepare your hearts by attending Ash Wednesday Liturgy
March 13	<b>SPRING BREAK (Centennial)</b>	<b>No Class / No homework</b>
March 20	<b>Lesson 10 - Why tell my sins to a priest?</b> (the Healing Power of Confession)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sin - What it is, its effects</li> <li>• God's law is freeing</li> <li>• Sin - mortal and venial</li> <li>• Nature of Sin - affects the person and the community</li> <li>• What is necessary to a Good Confession</li> <li>• St. Augustine of Hippo</li> </ul>
March 27	<b>Lesson 11 - How does God help when it hurts?</b> (Anointing of the Sick and Redemptive Suffering)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Suffering? Why Does God Allow it? Where is He in the midst of suffering?</li> <li>• Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?</li> <li>• How can suffering be redemptive?</li> <li>• Why we need God to understand?</li> <li>• St. Damien of Molokai</li> </ul>
April 3	Wrap up - Going Forward Summer	

April 6	<p>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</p> <p><b><i>At Whose Altar Do You Worship?</i></b></p>	<p>Our idols are the things we love, serve, and obey. They are what occupy our time, attention, and affection. Who or what holds your heart? St. Augustine puts it this way: "Everyone loves something...the question is 'what to love?'" This presentation will reveal the secret "god" that we serve.</p> <p><b>Bishop Andrew Cozzens</b> of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is our very special guest! He is a gifted speaker who reaches the minds and hearts of young people through his great stories, relevant message and inspiring witness. <i>NET Ministries 2018</i></p>
April 10	Catholic Fair Display Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation and Eighth grade students are responsible to help man game booths - Sign up for booth and shifts tonight!</li> </ul>
April 14	Palm Sunday	<p>Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.</p> <p>In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. . . Again at the end of the Bible, people from every nation raise palm branches to honor Jesus (Revelation 7:9). <a href="http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/palmsunday.php">http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/palmsunday.php</a></p>
April 17	No Class - Holy Week	
April 18 - 20 The Triduum	Holy Thursday - Good Friday - Passion and Death of Jesus Holy Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Triduum</li> <li>Institution of the ordained Priesthood, and the Eucharist</li> <li>Passion and Death of Jesus</li> <li><b>Easter Vigil - the Church begins to Celebrate the Light of the Resurrection</b></li> </ul>
April 21	EASTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Celebration of the Resurrection continues and will for the next 50 days</li> </ul>
Apr. 24 PCC	<p><b>CATHOLIC FAIR Family Event</b></p> <p><b>We pray that you have a Blessed and joyful summer!</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure you're prepared for your Catholic Fair booth and to be of service during the evening as needed</li> <li>An evening of fun and activities</li> </ul>
May 4	<p>Lifeline Mass at NET Center</p> <p><b><i>You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8)</i></b></p>	<p>Wind. Fire. Water. These biblical symbols of the Holy Spirit communicate both gentleness and power- the gentleness of a cool breeze or a warm fire and the power of a hurricane or blazing forest fire.</p> <p>But do I know the Holy Spirit as someone real in my life? Have I experienced His power or His gentleness as the Apostles did at Pentecost?</p> <p>Fr. Emmanuel, CFR is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal who lives in NYC serving the poor and preaching the Gospel with passion and humor. At the age of 18 he was changed by a radical encounter with the Holy Spirit – his own personal Pentecost. <i>NET Ministries 2018</i></p>
May 11	Rite of Sending All 1st Year (ninth grade) Confirmation Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chose one of two shifts to help prepare and / or serve meal for those being Confirmed and their families.</li> <li>This is part of your parish service and is also an event that "pays it forward" in that next year it will be your turn.</li> </ul>