

# ***PASTORAL INSTITUTE EXTENDED PROGRAM***



**Total of 144 Clock Hours**

## ***The Hebrew & Christian Scriptures***

### ***Old Testament***

*Introduction to the Bible and the Pentateuch*

*The Historical and Prophetic Books*

*Psalms and Wisdom*

### ***New Testament***

*Introduction to the New Testament and the Synoptic Gospels*

*The Gospel of John and the Book of Revelations*

*The Pauline Writings and New Testament Letters*

### ***Sacramental & Systematic Studies***

*Liturgy*

*Sacraments of Initiation*

*Sacraments of Healing & Vocation*

*Church*

*Trinity*

*Morality*

Courses are once a week for 6 weeks for two-hours per course (12 hours total)

Two courses offered per semester

Cost for each six-week course is \$20, book fees vary

# Extended Program Course Descriptions

*Scripture is foundational to the Catholic faith and to understanding the sacramental and systematic theological studies. Therefore, the Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Institute offers three, six week (12 clock hours) courses in Old Testament and New Testament.*

## Old Testament

***Introduction to the Bible and Pentateuch:*** How did the Bible come to be? How do Catholics read and interpret the Bible? This course introduces you to the Bible as the “Word of God spoken in human language.” The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, will be studied for its message and meaning for Christians living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century along with the historical, theological, and literary meanings of Scripture.

***The Historical and Prophetic Books:*** Do prophets foretell the future? What do the prophets have to say for today? The Historical and Prophetic Books course will study the books of Joshua, Judges and Kings I and II. The history of the prophetic movement in ancient Israel as well as the literary forms and the religious message of the 18 prophetic books are discussed in this course.

***Psalms and Wisdom:*** What does the Bible say about human suffering? The Psalms and Wisdom course examines the Book of Psalms, Israel’s prayer book and gives an introduction to the Wisdom literature of Israel, which includes the Book of Job.

## New Testament

***Introduction to the New Testament and the Synoptic Gospels:*** Why are the Gospels different? Introduction to the New Testament and the Synoptic Gospels course helps the student to learn how to read and understand the New Testament using basic tools of interpretation and how the Gospels came to be written. The course examines the themes of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and their relation to everyday life.

***Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation:*** Why is the Gospel of John so different from the other Gospels? Does the Book of Revelation predict the end of the world? Participants to this class will discover the differences in John’s Gospel from the Synoptics and the meaning of “signs” rather than miracles as found in the other Gospels.

***Pauline Writings and New Testament Letters:*** According to Paul’s teachings, what is the relationship between faith and salvation? The New Testament Contains 21 epistles of which 13 are attributed to the writings of St. Paul. Modern scholars agree that St. Paul wrote at least seven of the 13 letters. The class will give insight into the categories of the letters, as well as explain Paul’s fundamental teaching of salvation history, Jesus, the Church, and Christian living.



## Extended Program Course Descriptions Continued

*Sacramental and Systematic Studies* are a systematic examination of the Catholic faith on Christ, Grace, the Church, Sacraments, Morality, and Liturgy.

**Church:** In the wake of the Second Vatican Council almost half a century ago, the Catholic Church made a serious attempt to reach out to the modern mentality and adapt itself to the style and language of contemporary culture. Come and learn more about the Catholic Church, the oldest institution on earth, which traces its beginning back to Jesus Christ and the Apostles.

**Liturgy:** “Liturgy is an “action” of the whole Christ.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1136) This course seeks to help develop a theological basis for the experience and understanding of the liturgical action and to integrate this into their own spirituality. The Mass, music in liturgy, the liturgical year, children’s liturgies, etc. will be studied and discussed.

**Trinity:** The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life. The Trinity course will examine the three persons of the Holy Trinity and their relationships to each other and to the human race.

**Morality:** Participants will study the Church’s teaching on the moral life based on Scripture and its Covenant concept and with Catholic tradition. The course will guide the learner to become familiar with the concepts of grace, conscience, sin, social sin, virtue, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The participants will also examine the effectiveness of their own moral decision making process and gain insights into human development.

**Sacraments of Initiation:** The sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist - are interrelated in such a way that they are required for full Christian Initiation. (*Canon* 842 §2) These sacraments combine to bring the faithful to the full stature of Christ and to enable them to carry out the mission of the entire people of God in the Church and in the world. This course will explore and explain the history and theology of these sacraments and their relevance in our lives as Catholics today. The RCIA, Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults, will also be explained.

**Sacraments of Healing and Vocation:** This course is an introduction into the history, celebrations and significance to the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing) and the Sacraments of Vocation (Marriage and Holy Orders). The Sacraments of Healing continue the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ work of healing and salvation. Holy Orders and Matrimony are directed towards the salvation of others and thus contribute to personal salvation. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1533 & #1534)