

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion**

**Mr. Aboumoussa**

*“What was visible in our Redeemer has passed over into the sacramental mysteries.”  
(Pope Saint Leo the Great)*

**Course Goal:** Students will come to know God’s plan for our lives through an in-depth investigation of both the content of God’s revelation and the process of revelation itself. Students will also learn how to engage in God’s plan through an ongoing analysis of the seven Sacraments of the Church.

Course content will be presented through textbook and Bible reading, lectures, class discussions, participation in school liturgies and individual study in the form of projects. Students will also participate in Service-Learning Projects that will benefit members of the community. Students should pay close attention and actively participate by answering questions and taking notes during class in order to ensure successful learning.

Student grades are comprised of scores earned for homework assignments (15%), class work (10%), quizzes (25%), and tests (50%). Projects may be counted as either quizzes or tests, depending on the difficulty. To earn full credit on homework assignments, students must complete the task neatly, submit it on the due date and have the assignment written down in their assignment books. This will help students become more responsible and organized at this critical age. Parents should check the assignment books regularly to make sure students are completing their work. Parents and students should also use ParentsWeb as a means to check current class grades and other information. The Middle School web pages are a valuable resource for class assignments and links to extend the curriculum. Discipline procedures and late work policies can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook.

**Required Materials:** *The Life of Grace* from Ignatius Press and the accompanying workbook have been issued to students. *The New American Bible* and *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* will be available for the students in class and will be used frequently. Students should come prepared to class everyday with their textbooks, workbooks, assignment books, black or blue pens or pencils, and a composition notebook.

### **Outline of Content:**

#### ***First Quarter***

Divine Revelation  
God Revealed in the Old Testament  
Full Revelation in Christ

#### ***Second Quarter***

The Church  
The Infancy Narratives

#### ***Third Quarter***

Baptism  
Confirmation  
Holy Eucharist

#### ***Fourth Quarter***

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick  
Holy Orders  
Matrimony

Thank you for your cooperation and support,  
Mr. Joe Aboumoussa  
[Jaboumoussa@sjsknox.org](mailto:Jaboumoussa@sjsknox.org)

Links on next page.

Religion classes and important links: <https://sjsmiddleschool.weebly.com/religion.html>

Online notes: <https://sjsmiddleschool.weebly.com/religion-notes.html>

Religion videos: <https://sjsmiddleschool.weebly.com/religion-videos.html>

More videos: <https://www.youtube.com/c/joeaboumoussa>

Confirmation for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: <https://sjsmiddleschool.weebly.com/confirmation.html>

- Children already confirmed / chrismated, including those at infancy in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches, do not need to prepare for Confirmation as it is an unrepeatable Sacrament (valid as a gift of grace the first time administered).

## BIO

### **Joe Aboumoussa**

#### ***Middle School Religion, English/Language Arts, Video/Film Production, Social Media***

A native of upstate New York, Mr. Aboumoussa, a Maronite Catholic, received a B.A. majoring in English Literature and Language and minoring in Cinema Studies from Utica College of Syracuse University in 1999. He also holds a graduate certification in Secondary Education from Lincoln Memorial University (2006), a TN professional teacher licensure (2010), and a professional certification in Catechesis from Aquinas College & the Diocese of Knoxville (2011). He received WBIR's Educator of the Week merit in 2014. This is his tenth year of teaching at SJS and twelfth year in education. His wife, Amy, is a supervisor for the Department of Human Services with a background in writing and publishing. They enjoy spending time with their son Nathaniel "Nate". He's the joy of their lives. They are members of Immaculate Conception Parish where Mr. Aboumoussa assists the RCIA program for adults and has served on the Pastoral Council. He also speaks frequently on religious topics at various parishes in the East Tennessee diocese and maintains an approved YouTube channel featuring catechetical film essays which have been featured in various media outlets, including the local diocesan show *A Call to Discipleship*. He enjoys playing with his son, reading classic books by great authors, studying theology and church history, watching great movies by great directors, writing, producing videos and editing, listening to music, teaching, evangelizing, Eucharistic adoration, and spending time with his wife, family, and friends.