

8th Grade Religion
Mr. Aboumoussa & Mr. Zengel

Course Goal: Students will come to know the Church: her nature, her history, her teachings, and her place in this world and the next.

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 homework page, web pages, and Google Classroom are valuable resources 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: *Our Life in the Church* from Ignatius Press and its 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.

Thank you for your cooperation and support,
Mr. Joe Aboumoussa & Mr. Andy Zengel

<i>First Quarter</i> The Mass and Vocation The Nature of the Church How the Church Works The Church Sanctifying	<i>Third Quarter</i> Church History, part 2 The Life of Virtue Serve the Lord
<i>Second Quarter</i> Mary and the Saints Church History, part 1	<i>Fourth Quarter</i> Church and State The Sacramental Life Eschatology: The Last

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>

BIOS

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.

Andy Zengel

8th Grade Religion; Principal

Mr. Zengel received his B.A. in Theology and his Masters in Education from the University of Notre Dame and his certificate in Catholic School Leadership through Loyola Marymount University. He has been a teacher for 14 years and begins his 13th year at Saint Joseph School. His wife, Caroline, is a nurse at Children's Hospital. The Zengels have a daughter, Mary, and three sons, James, Johnny, and Billy. Mr. Zengel's areas of interest are playing with his kids, reading the Great Books, hiking, listening to good music, and watching good movies.