Holy Trinity Adult Catholic Studies 2026-2027

The Mass Explained – Since even cradle-Catholics seldom pick up on much of the Mass' symbolism, we begin with the 'numbers', including the four elevations. Then, in a video, Fr. Mike Schmitz will walk with us through the Mass, teaching us the purpose behind the Holy Water Font's placement; the reminder given by the Entrance Procession; the reason the priest kisses the altar, washes his hands, pours wine and water into the cup, and does the fracture. Join us…and never again attend Mass in the same way!

The Faith of the Church – We once again resume our *Symbolon* 2 classes with Taylor Kemp and Noelle McHugh. These classes teach on the Creed; offer insights from special Catholic sites; and provide catechetical and theological interpretation. They end with guidance through *Lectio Divina*, an ancient form of praying with Scripture. This year's classes are on 1) Mary, Mother of God; 2) the Sacraments; 3) the Body/Blood of Christ; and 4) Made for Communion.

The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ – In this wonderful series, we will learn from one of our favorites, Dr. Brant Pitre. Pitre – who earned his PhD in New Testament and ancient Judaism – will focus primarily on Scripture, answering the questions: "Were the Gospels anonymous?" and "Are the Gospels biographies?" and "When were the Gospels Written?" and "What do the Church Fathers say about the Gospels?"

No Greater Love – In this year's Lenten series, we will help bring the story of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection alive by taking you on a thought-provoking 'pilgrimage' to the actual sites with our host, Dr. Ted Sri. Sri – a theologian, best-selling author, and a founding leader of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) – provides insightful teaching tied to each of those powerful sites and to the major events they represent: The Prayer of Agony, The Trial before Pilate, The Death of the Messiah, The Seven Last Words, etc.

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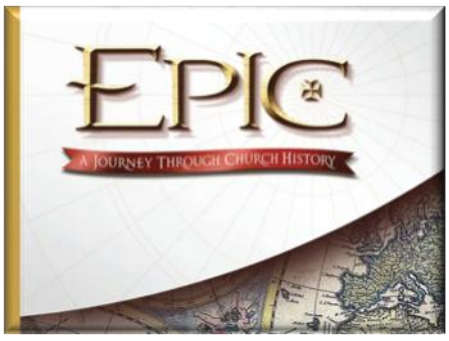
Apologetics: Explaining the Faith – In response to requests that we discuss how to more effectively answer the questions we Catholics often get, we will include short-and-simple explanations from popular Catholic speaker Chris Stefanick and his guests. The topics are: Catholic vs. Protestant Bibles; Catholicism and Other Religions; the Pope, Priesthood, Sacramental Confession; and Right and Wrong, Sin, Heaven, and Hell.

Saints – Convinced we can never have too many friends cheering us on from 'heavenly bleachers,' we will introduce you to six special saints who are the favorites of some Augustine Institute professors. Some of the saints are men, others are women. Some are from the early Church, others from more recent times. Some have names you will likely recognize; others have names you have never heard. Join us to meet these fascinating folks and learn what they can teach about becoming saints!

The Final Journey: End-of-Life Challenges and Funeral Planning – In a repeat of a popular class, Connie Pratt will address crucial end-of-life issues like advanced directives and the dangerous pressures we may face when we are most vulnerable. Dcn Pete McCann will then focus on preparations for a funeral, including selecting funeral homes/ columbarium sites. He will make suggestions for telling loved ones when to call a priest and making clear the Catholic Funeral Liturgy we want. He will also explain Anointing of the Sick, the Last Rites, and the special Apostolic Blessing.

Epic: A Journey through Church History – This year's classes with Steve Weidenkopf will end the series we have been studying. The final episodes focus on 1) The World at War, 2) The New Springtime, and 3) The Threshold of Hope. In these classes, Weidenkopf will discuss how fascism communism, and socialism eroded the Faith and led to persecution of the faithful; Fatima; the war-time roles of Benedict XV and Pius XII; Vatican II documents and legacy; Paul VI's *Humane Vitae*; the year of the three popes; etc.



Holy Trinity Adult Catholic Studies meets Sundays at 10:00 AM in the Hope House.
For more information, contact Phil or Connie Pratt at ppratt@holytrinitycos.org.