

# CATHOLIC CIVILIZATION – SYLLABUS

## **Course Description:**

Catholic Civilization is a four semester course that introduces a range of topics typically covered in college-prep religion and Christian history courses. Instead of focusing on a single subject, the course covers topics ranging from catechism and scriptures to history and cultural themes. Each semester covers a variety of subjects and although there is a slight progression towards more challenging topics over four semesters, the material can be covered in any order.

The Catholic Civilization program makes use of **Catholic Knowledge**, a quiz program that runs as an “App” on Android and Apple devices. Almost all the study materials for the class, including information sheets, links to important books and videos, homework questions and interactive “quiz” style Q/A are available on the Catholic Knowledge app.

Printable copies of all homework and study material are available on the **Catholic Knowledge Website** at: <http://catholic.heritage-history.com>. However, the interactive Quiz Game, which is required for the course, is only available on the **Catholic Knowledge App**. The Catholic Knowledge app is available at either the Google Play Store or the Apple App store and can run on any smart phone or tablet.

Approximately two units from each of five categories are studied every semester. Most questions are multiple choice and range in difficulty from novice to advanced, so the course is appropriate for students with a wide range of experience and ability. Review questions become progressively more difficult as students succeed in earning medals. All students are required to earn at least six medals in each unit, but advanced students can continue to earn points for answering more challenging questions.

Class time includes slideshows, discussion, student presentations, short videos and in class Q/A. The course was designed for a weekly homeschool co-operative program, but it can be adapted for independent homeschoolers or teen religious programs.

## **Catholic Knowledge Divisions:**

The Catholic Knowledge App is divided into five primary programs. Each program covers 8 subtopics:

- 1) **Truths of the Faith:** Covers four essential areas of Catholic Catechism: Fundamental Doctrines, Sacraments, Moral Teaching and Apologetics.
- 2) **Holy Scriptures:** Covers both old and new Testament history, emphasizing Bible stories, characters and meaning, rather than memory verses or exegesis.
- 3) **Saints and Heroes:** Covers Catholic history from the Apostolic Age to the 18<sup>th</sup> century with an emphasis on the achievements of important saints.
- 4) **Catholic Culture:** Covers the influence of the Catholic Church on cultural aspects of Western Civilization such as Architecture, Art, Music, Science, etc.
- 5) **Worship and Tradition:** Covers Mass and liturgy, signs and symbols, worship, devotions and spirituality, and Catholic clergy and institutions.

## **Topics Covered per Semester**

Typical High School religions courses focus on one subject at a time (Doctrine, Scriptures, History, etc.). The Catholic Civ series covers similar material but assigns two units from each of five primary subjects every semester. The first week might cover doctrine, the next week scripture, then history, etc. Not all topics are of equal difficulty and more class time is typically spent on historical and cultural subjects than on catechism and scriptures. Topics cover per semester are:

### **Catholic Civ: Semester 1**

Truths of the Faith: **God, Creation, and Fall of Man**, and **Grace and Redemption**  
Holy Scriptures: **Genesis**, and **Moses to Judges** (Genesis to Ruth)  
History/Saints: **Apostolic Age**, and **Roman Persecutions** (33 to 400 A.D.):  
Catholic Culture: Catholic influence on **Art** and **Architecture**  
Worship and Tradition: **Signs and Symbols** and **Liturgical Languages**

### **Catholic Civ: Semester 2**

Truths of the Faith: **Sacraments of Initiation**, and **Other Sacraments**  
Holy Scriptures: **Kings of Israel**, and **Restoration of Judah** (1 Samuel to Maccabees)  
History/Saints: **Late Roman Period**, and **Early Middle Ages** (400 to 1000 A.D.):  
Catholic Culture: Catholic influence on **Music** and **Literary Arts** (Poetry, History, etc.)  
Worship and Tradition: **Roman Rite and Liturgy** and **Liturgical Calendar**

### **Catholic Civ: Semester 3**

Truths of the Faith: **Moral Teaching I**, and **Moral Teaching II**  
Holy Scriptures: **Ministry of Christ** and **Passion of Christ**  
History/Saints: **High Middle Ages**, and **Moslems and Crusaders** (1000 to 1400 A.D.):  
Catholic Culture: Catholic influence on **Monks and Monasteries** and **Science**  
Worship and Tradition: **Marian Devotions** and **Prayer and Spirituality**

### **Catholic Civ: Semester 4**

Truths of the Faith: **Introduction to Apologetics**, and **Apologetics and Worldview**  
Holy Scriptures: **Acts of the Apostles**, and **Epistles**  
History/Saints: **Renaissance and Revolt**, and **Catholic Reformation** (400 to 1000 A.D.):  
Catholic Culture: Catholic influence on **Education** and **Law and Economics**  
Worship and Tradition: **Institutions and Clergy** and **Alternative Rites** (TLM, Byzantine, Coptic)

## **Required Resources:**

All necessary study materials and question review quizzes can be accessed through the **Catholic Knowledge** app, which can be downloaded from either the Google Play Store or the Apple App store onto any Tablet or smart phone. We do however, recommend students have access to several books and videos that were used as the basis of many questions for Catholic Knowledge. These are listed below in our **Additional Study Resources** section.

## **Internet Access:**

We are sensitive to the problems involved in student use of the internet. The **Catholic Knowledge** app was designed to allow students to study and earn knowledge medals without constant access to the internet. The Catholic Knowledge app does include links to Youtube channels or internet sites of particular interest, but access to these sites is not required for the course.

The only internet site required for the course is the Catholic Knowledge website, at <http://catholic.heritage-history.com>. This site includes printable copies of the written homework, and additional study materials. All study resource pages included in the CK app can also be viewed on the Catholic Knowledge website so that parents can easily review their students' assignments.

In order for students to post their scores on a **Leaderboard**, and compete with other students in the class, or to send their teacher **Progress Reports**, they do need internet access. Neither of these features require that they visit any external websites.

## **Student Expectations:**

Students should plan to spend at least **two hours per week** studying reference material and reviewing study questions. Students will be expected to complete work in three areas.

- 1) **Earn Catholic Knowledge Medals:** Students should earn a minimum of six medals (of twelve possible) in each of the ten assigned categories. Prizes will be awarded for all medals earned and for the highest total "Medal points" in the class.
- 2) **Written Homework:** In addition to winning medals, students will be expected to provide written answers to 24 questions in each category. Students are encouraged to use the Catholic Knowledge quiz program to help them answer questions. Earning Knowledge medals and completing written homework can be done together.
- 3) **Presentation:** Students will be expected to research and give at least one four to six minute presentation on a topic relating to Catholic Culture or History. A second report on a topic of student interest can be done for extra credit.

## **Additional Study Resources:**

The Catholic Civilization course draws its material from many different sources, and much of the information is covered in common Catholic reference books that homeschooling families often have on hand. Some of the **General Reference** materials we recommend include:

- **Catholic Bible** (Douay Rheims or RSV are recommended)
- **Saint Dictionary** (Butler's Lives of Saints or others)
- **Catholic Almanac** by Our Sunday Visitor
- **Catholic Source** Book by Peter Klein
- **Illustrated Catholic Children's Bible**
- **Roman Missal** (both Traditional and Contemporary)

In addition to these General Reference books, we recommend the following books and Video series. Each was used extensively in preparing questions for the Catholic Knowledge, and some of the videos are used for in class instruction.

### TRUTHS OF THE FAITH:

- **Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church** (Q/A based summary of Official catechism)
- **Truths of the Faith** by Fr. John Laux (TAN Books)
- **Mass and the Sacraments** by Fr. John Laux (TAN Books)
- **Catholic Morality** by Fr. John Laux (TAN Books)
- **Catholic Apologetics** by Fr. John Laux (TAN Books)
- **Sophia Sketch Pad: Sacraments** Playlist by Sophia Press (Youtube)

### HOLY SCRIPTURES:

- **Introduction to the Bible** by Fr. John Laux (TAN Books)
- **Read Scripture: Old Testament** Playlist from Bible Project (Youtube)
- **Read Scripture: New Testament** Playlist from Bible Project (Youtube)

### SAINTS AND HEROES:

- **Church History** by Fr. John Laux (TAN Books)
- **Leading Events in Church History** by Sister of Notre Dame
- See Catholic Knowledge website for more books and Videos. We used many specialized sources for the Saints and Heroes program rather than depending only on general histories.

### CATHOLIC CULTURE:

- **How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization** by Thomas Woods
- **Catholic Church, Builder of Civilization – Thomas Woods** (Youtube)
- **Cathedral** by David Macaulay
- **PBS Cathedral - David Macaulay** (Youtube)
- **Art Through Faith** by Seton Press
- **BCC Howard Goodall's Story of Music**, parts 1- 2 (Youtube)
- **History of Western Art**, parts 1-3 (Youtube)