

Precious Blood Catholic Church

Fall 2020 Middle/High School Religious Education Program

Given the atheistic and secular worldview often promoted by the media and academic/scientific establishment, it is vitally important today for parish religious education programs to dispel doubts, strengthen faith, and help students develop persuasive reasons for belief, valuable for sharing with friends and others who may question the existence of God, Jesus' divinity, the need to go to Church, etc.

One of the most common reasons young people leave the Church is the perceived incompatibility between science and faith. As Bishop Robert Barron stated, "What is vitally needed today is a renewed apologetics and catechesis. A new apologetics should look deep and long into the question of the relationship between religion and science." That's why we plan to include classes from the Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America (CAINA) in our sacramental preparation programs for middle school and high school students (e.g., RCIC, Older First Communion, Confirmation).

In addition, FORMED has recently released an excellent 7-part video and discussion program for youth called *The Search*. The emotional impact of this very well-done evangelical series will touch "the heart" of young people, while CAINA's apologetics classes appeal to "the head" by more deeply exploring the "big questions" raised in *The Search*. Therefore, this Fall CAINA's multimedia presentations and discussion classes will be interwoven into classes using episodes from *The Search*, as follows:

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| Sep. 13 | The Search Episode 1 - <i>What Do You Seek?</i> |
| Sep. 20 | The Search Episode 2 - <i>Who Are You?</i> |
| Sep. 27 | CAINA - <i>Near-Death Experiences: Evidence of the Soul? *</i> |
| Oct. 4 | The Search Episode 3 - <i>Why a God?</i> |
| Oct. 11 | CAINA - <i>God and Science: Where Does the Evidence Lead? *</i> |
| Oct. 18 | CAINA - <i>Which is True: Creation, Evolution, or Both? *</i> |
| Oct. 25 | The Search Episode 4 - <i>What's Our Story?</i> |
| Nov. 1 | The Search Episode 5 - <i>Who Is Jesus?</i> |
| Nov. 8 | The Search Episode 6 - <i>Am I Saved?</i> |
| Nov. 15 | CAINA - <i>How Know Jesus is Truly Son of God Who Really Rose from Dead?</i> |
| Nov. 22 | CAINA - <i>How Are We Saved? The Catholic View of Salvation *</i> |
| Nov. 29 | Thanksgiving Break (No Class) |
| Dec. 6 | The Search Episode 7 - <i>Why a Church?</i> |
| Dec. 13 | CAINA - <i>Why We Need the Church: Being "Spiritual" Is Not Enough *</i> |
| Dec. 20 & 27 | Christmas Break (No Classes) |
| Jan. 3 | CAINA - <i>Why Would a Loving God Allow Evil, Pain, and Suffering?</i> |

All these classes will be led by Steve Hemler, CAINA's President and author of *The Reality of God: The Layman's Guide to Scientific Evidence for the Creator* and *Search No More: The Keys to Truth and Happiness*, with the assistance of other catechists and already-Confirmed high school students.

* This presentation can be viewed online at: <https://cmax.tv/partner/caina>