Introduction to the Pentateuch and Genesis

This course provides a general introduction to the Bible and its first five books, the "Pentateuch" (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), which give context to the origin and foundation of the People of God. Through the lens of the critical historical method, students will analyze the formation of the traditions that make up the Pentateuch and its structure in order to identify key themes that give unity and cohesion to these books. This course will focus on the Book of Exodus.

Prior Requirement for Taking the Course

Have access to a computer with internet access, have a personal email address, and purchase the student workbook. Purchase of suggested reference books is highly recommended.
Deacon Chuck Thompson is an engaging speaker, author, husband, dad, and teacher. He has served the Archdiocese of Chicago as a deacon since 2011, and has taught in the Chicago Catholic Scripture School since 2007. He holds a Master’s Degree in Religious Education from Loyola University Chicago and a Master’s Degree in English from the University of Massachusetts. He leads retreats, workshops, and seminars on a variety of Catholic topics, as well as teaching at Saint Ignatius College Preparatory. Chuck lives on the northwest side of Chicago with his wife and three children.

You can visit his website at www.deaconchuck.com.

Course Objectives

Unit 1: The Exodus Experience

• Work with the biblical text, alone and in a group, using footnotes, cross-references, and various translations.

• Explain the biblical concepts of liberation, covenant, the people of God, and the law.

• Identify Moses and Miriam as ancestors in faith.

• Explain the process by which the Book of Exodus (and other biblical books) took shape, and begin to distinguish the non-Priestly sources from the Priestly sources.