



## Our Investigative Journey

### *Pivotal Players in the Church*

*They were a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but also changed the course of civilization.*

Although we may *know* the basic tenets of our faith, there is still more of the story that we need to *understand*. What do these truths mean? How were they further interpreted over time? And, how did / does this process *influence* our relationship to Christ's Incarnation *today*?

To answer these questions and many others, we must stand on the shoulders of the 'giants' who preceded us and look through the eyes of the Church's most influential people who unlocked the truths of that faith and our further illumined our beliefs in each era of civilization.

*Come journey with us this year to meet these Heroes and Sheroes of the Catholic Faith.*

*PS: This is also a great way to review the history of the Church. You will not be disappointed!*

#### **Session 1: Saint Augustine – The Teacher** **September 4**

Perhaps the premier example of how faith in Christ can change a person is St. Augustine's story of personal transformation which provides a template for life in Christ that still captivates us today. Travel to Rome, Milan, and all of the locations that played a significant role in the formation and vocation of Augustine, which in turn formed the life of the Church.

#### **Session 2: Saint Benedict – The Monk** **October 2**

In a world darkened by the fading light of classical culture, Saint Benedict cast the greater light of Jesus Christ. Benedict's emphasis on the importance of the Gospel and the sacrifices of poverty, chastity, and obedience, became a new cultural matrix from which a new civilization would emerge. Travel to Rome, Subiaco, Montecassino, and Mont-Saint Michel, that all played a significant role in the formation and vocation of St. Benedict, which in turn formed the life of the Church.

#### **Session 3: Saint Francis of Assisi – The Reformer** **November 6**

Saint Francis' mission to "Rebuild my Church" is the task of the Church in every age of its life. The radical simplicity of St. Francis' life demonstrated how the foundation of true and lasting reform are to be built on the solid rock that is the witness of the saints. Travel to Italy to visit all of the locations that played a significant role in the formation and vocation of St. Francis and the life of the Church.

#### **Session 4: Saint Thomas Aquinas – The Theologian** **January 8**

Saint Thomas is a saint for our time where some people insist the claims of religion are mere superstitions and a hold over from earlier times. Thomas anticipated these objections and trends, then demonstrated that

to believe and to think is integral to a life in Christ. Join us as we travel to Rome, Florence, Paris, and all of the locations that played a significant role in the formation and vocation of St. Thomas Aquinas.

**Session 5: Saint Catherine of Siena – The Mystic  
February 5 --**

Mystic, wonderworker, and confidant to popes and kings, St. Catherine of Siena exemplified the power of a life lived in relationship with Jesus. Her love for Christ transformed her into a living expression of him. Catherine provided an example of faith that changed her culture and left an enduring legacy in the Church. Travel with us to Rome, Siena, Avignon, and all of the locations that played a role in her vocation.

**Session 5: Blessed John Henry Newman – The Convert  
March 4**

John Henry Newman came into the Church as a convert and used his prodigious intellectual gifts to help the Church better understand its identity and mission, and to engage the assaults of a secular age. Travel with us to Oxford, London, Dublin and all of the locations that formed Newman, which in turn formed the life of the Church.

**Session 7: G. K. Chesterton – The Evangelist  
April 1**

How does one engage a culture that is confused by Christ and suspicious of the Church? The life and witness of this 19<sup>th</sup> century literary convert shows that effective evangelization is joy, and life in Christ is a day-to-day encounter with an abundant offer of grace. We visit Oxford, London, and Beaconsfield, and you are welcome to come along!

**Session 8: Michelangelo – The Artist  
May 6**

The master of sculpture and painting is not a saint but serves as the privileged representative of the creative potential engendered by the Catholic Faith and a route of access to God. Join us for the journey to Rome, Florence, and the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel to learn how Michelangelo's talent reflects his vocation and the life of the Church.

Please reserve the following WEDNESDAYS  
(6:30 pm to 8:30 pm) for your journey:  
September 4, October 2, November 6,  
January 8, February 5, March 4,  
April 1, and May 6.

Film presentations in sessions 1 through 8 run approximately 60 minutes. Session 9 runs 80 minutes due to the specificity of Michelangelo's works.

*All Sessions begin at 6:30 pm with a light meal.*

**Registration**

For more information about the program  
or to register for the program,  
(or for a special topic that piques your interest 😊)

Please contact:

Bob Soeder  
bsoeder@saintmonicachurch.net

or  
Sister Helene  
sisterhelene@gmail.com

You also may register by calling the Parish Office:  
216-662-8685

Registration forms will be included in the bulletin  
before the registration