



# St. Thérèse of Lisieux's Life & Works

Semester Course: Spring 2023



**ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: GRADES 7-12**

**Class Dates:** Starts Monday, January 23, 2023 and runs through Thursday, May 25, 2023.

**Class Times:** Monday & Thursday from 11:00am-12:15pm EST

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Instructor:** Mrs. Monika Minehart

**E-mail:** [mminehart.scholeacademy@gmail.com](mailto:mminehart.scholeacademy@gmail.com)

**CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) was a French Catholic who became a Carmelite nun at 15 years old and died when she was just 24. She penned her autobiography two years before her death at the request of her mother superior, Mother Agnes of Jesus who was also her older sister, Pauline. St. Thérèse has become known for her spiritual simplicity of heart and her ability to reflect God's love in an ordinary life.

In this course, we will read *The Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux* and a selection of St. Thérèse's plays or "Pious Recreations". As we learn about St. Thérèse's life and devotion to Jesus, we will refer to sacred scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church while engaging in theological discussion about our own spiritual lives. We will also study sacred art and music in order to complement our reading and help refine our ability to imitate St. Thérèse's holy example.

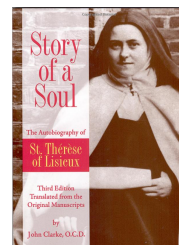
There will be two longer essays assigned during the course and a journal to be kept and written and/or drawn in each week. Students will be asked to attend spiritual field trips such as Adoration and Daily Mass throughout the semester and others following the liturgical calendar. They will be given the opportunity to share their experiences with classmates in order to increase personal devotion as well as attain a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.

Through learning from one another and from St. Thérèse herself, our overarching goal will be to understand that, as St. Thérèse wrote, "Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing."

## REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

-Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux (the Little Flower) [The Authorized English Translation of Therese's Original Unaltered Manuscripts]

- Paperback (January 19, 1996) Translated by John Clarke, OCD, 3rd ed.
- Must have physical copy, digital versions not permitted



-The Plays of St. Therese of Lisieux "Pious Recreations"

- Paperback (ICS Publications, 2008)
- Translated by Susan Conroy & David Dwyer
- Must have physical copy, digital versions not permitted



-Bible (New American Bible) (must have personal physical copy)

-Catechism of the Catholic Church (must have physical copy)

**ALSO REQUIRED:** Journal (unlined). Pencil, colored pencils, sticky notes and sticky note tabs/page markers.

## SCHEDULE FOR: ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX'S LIFE & WORKS

---

### CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

**Mondays & Thursdays: 11:00am-12:15pm (EST) for 18 weeks and 32 classes\***

**January (3):** 23, 26, 30

**February (6):** 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, [Winter Break] 27

**March (9):** 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30

**April (6):** [Holy Week] 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27

**May (8):** 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 [End 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester]

*\*Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment. During "Office Hours" students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material.

## **COURSE MAP**

---

### **January/February**

Introduction, Prologue, Family Tree  
Chapter One - Alençon  
Chapter Two - Les Buissonnets  
Chapter Three - The Distressing Years  
Begin Essay #1

### **March**

Chapter Four - First Communion, Boarding School  
Chapter Five - After the Grace of Christmas  
Chapter Six - The Trip to Rome  
Chapter Seven - The First Years in Carmel  
Essay #1 Due March 2<sup>nd</sup>; Essay #2 assigned

### **April**

Chapter Eight - Profession and Offering to Merciful Love  
Chapter Nine - My Vocation is Love  
Chapter Ten - The Trial of Faith  
Chapter Eleven - Those Whom You Have Given Me  
Epilogue  
Essay #2 Due April 27; Coat of Arms final project given

### **May**

Pious Recreations: The Plays of St. Thérèse of Lisieux  
"The Mission of Joan of Arc"  
"Jesus at Bethany"  
Coat of Arms Final Project Due/Presentations Last Week of Class (May 22<sup>nd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>)

**The following field trips will be assigned along with a corresponding journal entry:**

- Holy Hour in Adoration
- Daily Mass (minimum of once each quarter)
- Stations of the Cross (with a larger group)

**Note:** If your parish or diocese offers anything liturgical event unique to your area and your child attends and would like to share, please let me know as we can always make room in our class time for this type of sharing.

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students enrolling in the course *St. Thérèse of Lisieux's Life & Works* should have a moderate-advanced reading level and be willing to use a dictionary to look up words as often as necessary for comprehension. We will devote a section of our journals to spiritual vocabulary. These pages will need to be scanned and submitted for a weekly homework grade.

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION

---

Students will spend the majority of the course reading *Story of a Soul: the Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*. We will be deliberately moving very slowly throughout our text to read and contemplate the scripture referenced throughout the book as well as the spiritual literature mentioned by St. Thérèse herself.

Students should allow themselves a peaceful location in their home or outside for reading assignments in order to have prayerful contemplation while reading. They must not rush their assignments but allow ample time despite what may look like a small amount of reading. The time, day and location of each student's reading and homework assignments will vary. However, here are some potential options that may work for your student:

- coming early to Mass or staying after Mass to do reading in the church
- reading during Adoration
- reading at bedtime when the house is quiet
- setting an alarm one day a week to wake up earlier than siblings/family members to do reading in the quiet of the morning
- finding a peaceful spot outside to read without unnecessary distractions

Students will be expected to write and/or draw weekly in their journals and be willing to share, to some degree, with their classmates. Journal entries will not be submitted, but parents must sign off on journal completions each week in order to ensure that students do not rush or merely write a couple of sentences to finish the assignment in haste. Drawing, if reflective and following the prompt of the journal assignments, is equally acceptable to writing.

Lastly, there will be two longer essay assignments throughout the course. These will need to adhere to all English writing standards and will be considered formal writing with research done at home as well. They will be given ample time to prepare for each essay and will submit at least one draft before final submissions.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING**

---

While pursuing the course *St. Thérèse of Lisieux's Life & Works* through Scholé Academy will be restful and prayerful, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their transcript. It's a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for beginning to explore one's inner spiritual life. Active participation and the ability to challenge oneself through introspective writing and discussion will allow me to assign the following grades to your student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

Inasmuch as you might be fully on board with this grading method in theory, there will undoubtedly be the need to complete a transcript with either a numeric or traditional letter grade. Traditional percentage grades will be provided and will be readily accessed on the *St. Thérèse of Lisieux's Life & Works* Canvas page. Additionally, Mrs. Minehart will provide a transcript of that grade to the requesting parent at the end of the year.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS**

---

Mrs. Minehart will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading system, Schoology. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to the *St. Thérèse of Lisieux's Life & Works* course page.

Student's grades will be comprised of:

1. Journals (including any spiritual field trip assignments): 25% of the grade
2. Class Participation: 25% of the grade
3. Vocabulary Homework: 20% of the grade.

4. Mid-term and Final Papers (including drafts): 30% of the grade

### **STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

---

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook. Additionally, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult an appropriate style manual for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

### **THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

---

We will be using the free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the *St. Thérèse of Lisieux's Life & Works* Canvas assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

### **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:**

---

**Monika Minehart** has been working in Catholic Religious Education for over a decade. She earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Early Christian Studies from the University of Michigan and her M.A. in Divinity from the University of Chicago with a focus in Biblical Studies and Koine Greek. Having observed teaching styles in a wide array of school settings (homeschooling, private, public & charter) in her own education and that of her children, she understands the necessity of restful learning wherever you may be attending school. She is passionate about reinvigorating Catholic catechetical programs through classic spiritual literature as well as modern Catholic resources. Monika cherishes the time she gets to spend with her husband and four children, enjoys weightlifting and exercising in her garage gym, and loves listening to uplifting music.