

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Douglas Hammerling    **Humanities Discipline:** US History    **Date:** January 2016

**World Religion:** Christianity    **Teaching Module Title:** Christianity Traditions in American History

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the historical life and basic religious scriptures that depict the figure of Jesus.
2. Understand the Reformation, Orthodox Church, and Catholic Church and how each had an impact on Christianity in the United States.
3. Become familiar with the role of Christian churches, saints, and martyrs in world history.

### Assigned Readings and Websites:

Bowker, *World Religions*, "Christianity" chapter

PBS American Experience **God in America.** [www.pbs.org/godinamerica](http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica)

### Study Questions and/or Discussion Prompts for Students:

1. What are the four Gospels of the Bible? What are their different characteristics?
2. What is the role of the Virgin Mary in Christian practice? What does the term Incarnation mean?
3. What is the significance of the Last Supper? What is the changing view of the Eucharist?
4. Explain concept of the Crucifixion as an atonement.
5. Explain the importance of the Resurrection.
6. Why was St. Francis considered a saint? Why are some of the modern saints and martyrs not canonized?
7. Identify three Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church.
8. What is an icon and why are icons important?
9. Who were the fathers of the Reformation? Explain the different styles of preaching.
10. Explain the importance of the Last Judgment. What did Paul stress about salvation?

### Written Assignments

1. Compare and contrast the Orthodox and Catholic Church. How do their religious practices differ? How are they similar? Describe their art and architecture. What are their differences concerning the role of the priests?
2. Create a time line of the life of Jesus. Select two events from the following and create a detailed time line. Select the Last Supper, Crucifixion, Resurrection, or the Last Judgment.