**Journal Directions – please read carefully**

**How to Journal:**

1. Reading Log – look at the reading log to see which reading is assigned for the nearest due date.
2. Summarize - For each chapter assigned, write a **three-sentence summary** that summarizes the events of the chapter. You may go over a sentence or two if necessary, but you shouldn’t need to. For example, If Genesis 1-3 is assigned, you should write 3 sentences for Genesis 1, three (3) sentences for Genesis 2, and three (3) sentences for Genesis 3.

Note: These sentences are a *summary* of the chapter. The journal should not read:

Genesis 1: “God created Adam. God created Eve. God created animals.”

It should be more intelligent and thorough. Like so:

Genesis 1: “God spent 6 days creating the world. During those six days, God created light, darkness, water, animals, human beings, among other things. God found all that he created to be ‘very good.’”

* + Please do not quote Bible verses unless you feel like the verse sums up the entire chapter very well. Sometimes this can happen, but please do not do so more than once in a chapter.
  + DO NOT CHEAT OR PLAGARIZE. The goal of this assignment is to get you reading the Bible. If you’re having trouble summarizing because it’s difficult to understand (it happens), I recommend reading the chapter again *slowly*. If you are still having trouble, please come talk to me about it, but do not copy another student’s answers or share answers with each other or you will receive a “0”. I would rather you do the assignment poorly then to cheat and receive a “0.”
  + Helpful advice: summarize the most essential points of the chapter – include significant names of persons, places, or things discussed.
  + Never hesitate to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance! After all, he is the author of the Book.

\*\*\*\* we are going to switch this up from what I said in class – on the day the journal is due, you will get in groups and discuss/write a reflection together on the reflection question of your choice, rather than having to do it for homework.

1. Reflect – If there is a reflection due as indicated on the reading log, you will then write a brief reflection about the chapters you have read after summarizing the chapters. The reflection should be a paragraph in length (5-7 sentences), though I will allow you to go over a few sentences. I will give you prompts for these reflections though you may write about your own topic (pertaining to the chapters assigned) if you think that you have come up with a good topic to write on.
   * SUMMARIZE first, THEN reflect.
   * Your reflection could relate to:
     + Your prayer/spiritual life, journey with God
     + The Church’s teachings on different issues
     + Relevant current events
     + The Mass or the sacraments
     + What you have learned or are learning in another class, youth group, etc.
     + A saint, a pope, or some other spiritual figure
   * Your reflection should NOT be:
     + “Genesis was like so cool because it made me feel like so awesome and loved and made me think about animals and stuff.”
     + Repetitive just to fill up the page
     + Irrelevant, meaning it has nothing to do with what was assigned
     + Express judgments – “I didn’t like this part” or “I liked this part.” You are welcome to have an opinion, but, again, let’s keep it intelligent. You can say “I didn’t understand”, “It didn’t seem like”, “I never knew that”, “I wonder why…”

**Grading** – you will receive 3 points per summary and 10 points per reflection for each journaling assignment. So, if you have to read Genesis 1-3 and write a reflection, you could receive up to 19 points – 9 points for the 3 chapters of Genesis, and 10 points for the reflection on the chapters.

**What the Journal should look like**: (Always begin on the top of a new page)

**Name:** (your name here)

**Reading**: Genesis 1-3

**Summary**: (3 sentences per chapter)

Genesis 1: 3 sentence summary

Genesis 2: 3 sentence summary

Genesis 3: 3 sentence summary

**Reflection**: (5-7 sentences in paragraph format) Make sure you indicate which reflection prompt you have chosen to write on.

Paragraph begins here.