



1

Introduction

- Welcome! Thank you for being here and your interest in World War II.
- We have been offering adult faith formation courses for many years. At St. Therese, we enjoy coming together and learning from one another.
- Why offer this course? We *love* learning! God wills us to learn and grow!
- **Key:** Dr. Tod Worner and I are *not* experts in World War II. Many of you likely know a good deal more than we do!

2

Introduction

- What we hope to offer is to look at the most significant event in the 20th century from the perspective of faith. How did God's providential hand guide this massive event that impacted on millions?
- How can learning more about World War II help us become better disciples of Christ, citizens of our country, and servants of our fellow brothers and sisters?



3

Introduction

- **Key:** To be clear, we do not have a political agenda. While our country has become more politically polarized lately and everything seems to be viewed via political categories, this is not our task. We are Christians who keep our eyes fixed on heaven (Phil. 3:20) as we work to build up God's kingdom.
- We will always begin with prayer, asking God for peace – in our hearts, the Church, our country, and for all God's children.
- We will have two presentations (45 minutes) with a break in between.

4

Introduction

- We will then offer a short reflection with a few points to consider from a Catholic perspective. Finally, we will answer questions you have.
- If you have questions, please hold them to the end so that we can get through all the material and not get sidetracked.
- Those of you who want to meet in small groups, we will offer this opportunity after the presentations with some guided questions for you.

5

Introduction

- If you need to leave, do not feel bad about this. We have busy schedules! Just get up quietly and be free. All presentations will be livestreamed and recorded.
- You may switch between the morning and evening sessions given your schedule may have a conflict with the normal session that you attend.
- **Note:** We will have a few images that may be unsettling as war is horrible. We will not be grotesque but provide enough so we are aware of what happened, learn from history, and not repeat it.

6

Introduction

- **Note:** With hundreds of people in this course, we have a *wide* range of knowledge about World War II. Some of you have extensive knowledge and are experts, while others know very little.
- Please be patient as we will do our best to meet the needs of various levels of knowledge. No matter how much you know, you can *always* learn something from a good course. A humble heart can go a long way!
- Most of all, have fun. Thank God that we can learn and grow together!

7

Course Outline

Topic	Date
Rise of Adolf Hitler & Major Players	September 23
Hitler's Expansion of Territory	October 7
The Eastern Front Battles	October 21
The Jewish Question	November 4
The Holocaust	November 18
D-Day & the Atomic Bomb	December 2
Ending the War and Lessons Learned	December 9

8