

Theology of Worship
LIT-501 Aquinas Institute
Hybrid

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This course is intended for M.Div. students, MAPS/Liturgical Ministry students, MAPS Formation students as well as others who desire an introduction to the theology of Christian worship.

Description: As an introduction to Christian liturgy and sacraments, this course seeks to provide a sound theological understanding of liturgy by exploring the major theological dimensions of liturgical celebrations, various liturgical forms of prayer, and the place of liturgy in Christian life. Taking the Vatican II liturgical reforms as our point of departure, we will explore the vision of liturgical celebration set out in contemporary Church documents and in theological reflection. Since Christian liturgy is also fully human behavior, we will also turn to the social sciences for their insights into symbol and ritual activity. Lastly we will develop skills in celebrating and reflecting upon liturgical celebrations.

This course advances the mission of Aquinas Institute to educate men and women to preach, to teach, to minister, and to lead.

Course Goals

- I. Study the theological principles of Christian liturgy and the elements of liturgical celebration as presented in magisterial and theological writing on the liturgy and the sacraments
- II. Develop oral and written skills in articulating post-Conciliar understandings of liturgical celebration and its place in ecclesial life
- III. Become familiar with the Vatican II liturgical reform process, the liturgical books, the major documents of the liturgical reform, and the ongoing agenda.
- IV. Develop skills in the writing of a variety of Christian prayer forms
- V. Develop familiarity with the shape and meaning of the Liturgical Year
- VI. Become familiar with some inter-disciplinary work on symbol and ritual
- VII. Increase and demonstrate one's competency with the Church's symbolic vocabulary through actual celebration

Learning Outcomes

Objective	Learning Outcome	Means of Assessment
Knowledge of a theology of Christian liturgical prayer	Students will demonstrate knowledge of a theology of worship by mastering key theological concepts related to Christian liturgical prayer	Evidence will be shown in class on-line conversations and two written assignments
Knowledge of the RC liturgical renewal process	Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Vatican II liturgical renewal process by studying key ecclesial documents and diverse theological writings on the process	Evidence will be shown in on-line discussions, one reflection paper and one final analytic paper on a liturgical reform document

Skill-building in writing prayer forms and in ritual celebration	Students will develop competence in writing prayer and creating rituals by studying liturgical prayer forms and elements of the ritual process	Evidence will be shown through one prayer-writing exercise and one ritual celebration

Methodology: The course will be a combination of lecture, demonstration through video and liturgical practica, and discussion. All students share in the responsibility of offering a critical analysis of the material under consideration and of bringing their experience into dialogue with it. Collaborative work on projects, discussions and practica are important components.

Requirements:

- a. Informed participation in on-line sessions (30%)
- b. 2 reflection papers/projects (3-4 pages) (30%)
- c. Participation in a worship exercise and critique (10%)
- d. A final essay (30%)

Textbooks required:

Catherine Vincie, *Celebrating Divine Mystery*, Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2009.
 Mitchell, Nathan. *Liturgy and the Social Sciences*, Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999.
 Francis, Mark. *Shape a Circle Ever Wider*. Chicago: LTP, 2000.

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