

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.

Learning goals:

- I. Develop skills in a close reading of magisterial and theological writing on liturgy and the sacraments
- II. Master the theological principles of Christian liturgy and the elements of liturgical celebration.
- III. Develop oral and written skills in articulating post-Conciliar understandings of liturgical celebration and its place in ecclesial life through class participation, online discussion and written assignments.
- IV. Become familiar with the Vatican II liturgical reform process, the liturgical books, the major documents of the liturgical reform, and the ongoing agenda.
- V. Become familiar with some inter-disciplinary work on symbol and ritual
- VI. Increase and demonstrate one's competency with the Church's symbolic vocabulary through actual 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 is an important component.

Requirements:

- a. Regular attendance at classes
- b. Informed participation in class sessions (10%)
- c. 4 Online discussions of course materials (20%)
- c. 3 reflection papers/projects (3-4 pages) (30%)
- d. Participation in a worship exercise and critique (10%)
- e. 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.