

Pontifical College Josephinum
Josephinum Diaconate Institute

INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the history, theology, and praxis of the Liturgy of the Catholic Church, and explores the function of the Liturgy as an integral component of the Christian mission. Using theological and legislative documents of the Church's Magisterium, as well as relevant secondary and scholarly materials, the course will explore fundamental anthropological, theological, legal, and historical foundations which underlie the Church's liturgical tradition and practice.

Learning Objectives

Participants in the course will become conversant with:

- What Liturgy is, how it is rooted in Divine Revelation, and how it is expressed in the Church
- How and why the Liturgy of the Church has developed organically and in continuity with tradition
- Basic signs, symbols, and structures of Liturgy, including architecture and Sacred Music
- The fundamental elements of the most significant liturgical experiences of the Church, including Holy Mass and the Divine Office
- The central role of the Liturgy in the spirituality of the ordained

Required Texts

Ecclesiastical Documents (available online):

The Catechism of the Catholic Church
The Code of Canon Law
General Instruction of the Roman Missal
General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours

Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)
Musicae Sacram (Instruction on Music in the Liturgy)

Vicesimus Quintus Annus

Letter Of His Holiness **Benedict XVI** to the Bishops on the Occasion of the
Publication of the Apostolic Letter “**Motu Proprio Data**” **Summorum**
Pontificum on the Use of the Roman Liturgy Prior To The Reform Of 1970

Secondary Required Reading:

Dalmais, Irénée Henri, et al. *Principles of the Liturgy*. The Church at Prayer: An Introduction to Liturgy, edited by Aimé Georges Martimort, I. Translated by Matthew J. O’Connell. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1987.

Ratzinger, Joseph (Benedict XVI). *The Spirit of the Liturgy*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2000.

Module Outline

Module 1. What is Liturgy?

- The Liturgy is rooted in the Incarnation.
- The Liturgy is the work of God, and the work of the Church.
- The Liturgy’s purposes are the adoration of God and the sanctification of people.
- The Liturgy and the Blessed Trinity

Module 2. Biblical Foundations of the Liturgy

- The Word of God provides the context for Liturgy.
- The Word of God provides the basic content and form for Liturgy.
- Biblical Faith determines and informs Liturgy.
- Biblical centrality of worship and the true purpose of freedom.

Module 3. Liturgy and Mystery

- Contemporary Loss of the Sense of Mystery and Transcendence
- Liturgy as the expression of the Mystery of Faith
- Liturgy as the *Locus Theologicus*; i.e. Liturgy has the Faith as its content
- *Lex orandi, lex credendi*

Module 4. History of the Liturgy, Part I

- Unity and Diversity are each fundamental to Liturgy.
- The experience of the early Church is foundational but not restrictive.
- East and West

Module 5. History of the Liturgy, Part II

- The Gregorian Reform unifies and directs subsequent liturgical practice.

- Diversity of Medieval Expression and the Tridentine Renewal
- The Baroque Experience

Module 6. History of the Liturgy, Part III

- The Liturgical Movement
- Pius XII and Vatican II
- *Sacrosanctum Concilium*: What it actually says and does
- Subsequent confusions and hermeneutical keys to the way forward

Module 7. Signs, Postures, and Gestures in the Liturgy

- Liturgical postures
- Liturgical gestures
- Vestments and Insignia
- Material Elements

Module 8. Liturgy and the Sacraments

- Liturgy and its relationship to the 7 Sacraments
- Liturgy as Faith Incarnate

Module 9. Liturgy and the Church

- The Liturgy is of the Church, for the Church, and constitutes the Church
- The Liturgy is hierarchically arranged
- The Liturgy provides unity, particularly with the Church suffering and triumphant

Module 10. Basic Structures in Liturgy

- The Assembly and Actual Participation
- The Celebrant and Ministers
- The Church as Sacred Space
- Sacred Music

Module 11. Fundamental Liturgical Expressions

- Mass as Sacrifice of Christ made present: the fundamental reality
- The Structure of Mass
- The Structure of the Divine Office and its relationship to Mass
- The Paraliturgical and Devotional Life of the Church

Module 12. Liturgy and the Spirituality of the Ordained

- Consecration for the Church's ministry
- Obligations of law viz. prayer and participation in the Liturgy
- Mass and Office as the structural keys to the organization of life for the ordained