University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary
Introduction to the Liturgical Year - CU 2311
Spring 2015 – Tues/Thurs 2:45-4:00pm
Instructor: Alexis K. Kutarna, MM
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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course will explore the ways that the mystery of salvation is signified in the liturgical life of the Church, and the devotional life of the Christian. Through examining the elements of liturgy and the liturgical year, the student will explore the unfolding of the year of grace, so that the Christian will come to know and experience how “all time belongs to Him and all ages.” Through lecture, practicum and reading, the course will heighten the awareness that the Church’s Liturgical year is filled with sign and symbol, in language, ritual action, art and architecture, and music, to promote active participation in the Church’s mysteries to deepen the encounter with Christ in every time and season.

Topical Outline

1. Introduction to the Liturgy, liturgical terminology, the meaning of the Liturgy
   - Catechism of the Catholic Church nos. 1066-1076, 1136-1199

2. The meaning of the Liturgy, the meaning of the Liturgical Year
   - Sacrosanctum Concilium chapter 1
   - Spirit of the Liturgy part 1

3. Ritual and Culture
   - Rite and Man excerpt (Bouyer)
   - The Spirit of the Liturgy: “Rite”

4. Sign and Symbol
   - Mystical Body, Mystical Voice, ch. 2 “The Sacramental Nature of the Liturgy”

5. Concepts of Time and the Liturgical Year
   - The Spirit of the Liturgy: “The Relationship of the Liturgy to Time and Space” and “Sacred Time”
   - General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar

   - Dies Domini
   - General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours

7. Liturgical Language and the Liturgical Year
   - Verbum Domini part 2 (The Word of God and the Church)
   - Mystical Body, Mystical Voice ch. 3 “The Use of Words in the Liturgy”
8. Liturgical Ritual and Action, Liturgical Ministers
   - The Spirit of the Liturgy: “The Body and the Liturgy”

9. Liturgical Art and Architecture
   - The Spirit of the Liturgy: “Sacred Places”
   - Catholic Church Architecture and the Spirit of the Liturgy excerpt (McNamara)

10. Liturgical Music
    - Sacrosanctum Concilium chapter 6
    - The Spirit of the Liturgy: “Music and the Liturgy”

11. Blessings and Devotions through the Liturgical Year
    - The Book of Blessings (introduction)
    - Directory on Popular Piety (introduction)

12. Inculturation and Interculturation, Liturgy and the Post-modern Man
    - Varietates Legitimae (excerpts)
    - “Sunday in Modern America” in Masterworks of God (Mannion)

13. “Sacramentality” of liturgical sign: word/action/music/art and the Liturgical year

14. Review and discussion; Student presentations on topics related to the Liturgical year.

**Required Texts:**

Catechism of the Catholic Church
The Liturgy of the Hours (4 volume set)
Church documents (via the internet)
Handouts

**Course Format and Required Work:**

The course will consist of lecture and discussion based on the assigned readings. Attendance and participation in lectures and discussions are required of all students. Students are expected to complete the required reading prior to class. Discussions are designed to apply the reading and principles of liturgy to pastoral situations. Students will be required to prepare a presentation and paper on a topic related to the liturgical year (from a list of given topics), and well as four written assignments (one page each, topics announced in class). Tardiness, absence, or late work will affect the final grade.

**Course Grading:**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final presentation/paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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