Course Description

This course will explore the historical development of Sacred Music in the Catholic Tradition, as well as take an in-depth look at the documents of the Church pertaining to music in the liturgy. Additionally, students will learn basic chanting skills, the musical modes of Gregorian chant, and focus on the music in the liturgical books of the Church. The course is designed to foster an appreciation for sacred music and its sacramental nature, so that it might truly fulfill its purpose of the glorification of God and sanctification of the faithful, by deepening participation in the liturgy and the encounter with Christ.

Topical Outline

1. The Liturgy and Music: The Nature of the Liturgy
   *Sacrosanctum Concilium ch. 1*

2. The Liturgy and Music: The Sacramental Nature of Liturgical Music

3. Introduction to Musical Notation

4. Fundamentals of Music Appreciation and Overview of Music History
   - The Ancient World and Jewish Tradition
   - The Early Church and the Development of Chant
   - Middle Ages to Renaissance
   - Baroque to Classical
   - Romantic Period to Twentieth Century

5. History of Musical Legislation and the Church
   *Tra le sollecitudini (and subsequent)*

6. The Second Vatican Council and Sacred Music
   *Sacrosanctum Concilium ch. 6*
   *Musicam Sacram*

7. The Post-Conciliar Era
   *Music in Catholic Worship/Liturgical Music Today*
   *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*

8. The Roman Missal
   *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*
9. The Liturgy of the Hours

   General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours

10. Liturgical Music and the Church Today

   Bishop Olmsted: Singing the Mass
   Bishop Sample: Pastoral Letter

11. Music Books of the Church, Parish Music Resources, Cultural Adaptation

12. Frequently Asked Questions on Sacred Music, review and discussion

Required Texts:

Copland, Aaron, What to Listen for in Music, Signet Classics, 2011. (First ed.: 1939)
Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship
Church documents/handouts (found online or handed out in class)

Course Format and Required Work:

The course will consist of lecture and discussion based on the assigned readings, as well as
listening to samples of music. Attendance and participation in lectures and discussions are
required of all students. Students are expected to complete the required reading prior to class.
Singing in class will develop the student’s ability and understanding of the sung liturgy. Students
will be required to prepare a paper on a topic related to sacred music (from a list of given topics,
or approved by the instructor), and well as two short written assignments/ listening reflections
(topics announced in class). The final exam will consist of a listening portion, a written portion,
and an individual sung portion. In lieu of a final exam, the student may elect to attend two sacred
music events (pre-approved) and provide the program and a one-page written evaluation of the
music in light of the topics explored in class. Tardiness, absence, or late work will affect the final
grade.

Course Grading:

   Attendance and participation  20%
   Written assignments           20%
   Paper                          30%
   Final exam                     30%