

## Department of Theology

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### GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**  
Instructor: John D. Laurance, S.J., Ph.D.  
Course #: THEO 8520, Section 701  
Course Title: **Theology of Christian Liturgy**

#### Content:

Since the principle of intelligibility in systematic theology is the relation of one aspect of the revealed mystery of salvation to all the others, and since the Three-Person God reveals Self through inter-personal encounter, the ultimate task of systematic theology is to demonstrate how it contributes to a better understanding and practice of communal worship. The aim of this course, therefore, is to locate the theology of Christian liturgy within the overall work of theology, giving attention to (a) the development of liturgiology from its beginnings to the present day science; (b) how to read the Church's liturgy as a source of theology; (c) theological developments toward a 21<sup>st</sup> century theology of liturgy especially in the work of Karl Rahner, Edward Kilmartin, and Louis-Marie Chauvet; and (d) investigating special questions in the theology of liturgy by the writing and presentation of seminar papers.

#### Format:

After introductory lectures, classes will be carried on in seminar fashion, introduced by the professor and/or student leader of discussion and then developed through a sharing of findings from assigned and suggested reading materials. Final classes will be devoted to student presentations and discussions of seminar papers.

#### Assignments and/or Examinations:

- (1) Take turns leading seminar discussions, providing participants with a 1-3 page summary for the day's assigned readings, along with proposed questions for discussion.
- (2) Write explanatory summaries of two pre-approved foreign language articles on the theology of Christian liturgy.
- (3) Write a research paper and do a class presentation on it at the end of the semester (18-25 pages).

#### Language Pre-requisites:

- All required reading materials for class sessions will be in English. However, the course will require students to develop at least one foreign language ability both in their paper research and in two additional assignments.

#### Required Texts:

1. Louis-Marie Chauvet, *SYMBOL AND SACRAMENT: A Sacramental Reinterpretation of Christian Existence*. (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1995) ISBN: 0-8146-6124-6. Ordered to be available in the BookMarq.
2. E.J. Kilmartin, *CHRISTIAN LITURGY: 1. THEOLOGY* (Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 1988) ISBN: 1-55612-067-2. Since only parts of this important book will be assigned, copies have not been ordered for sale by the BookMarq. However, the instructor will make copies available for use during the course. Inexpensive new and used copies are also available online at [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com).