



Spring Semester – 2026

Academic Bulletin

**Courses open to MA (Theology)
and Continuing Education Students**



Saint Mary Seminary

and Graduate School of Theology

28700 Euclid Avenue

Wickliffe, OH 44092

www.stmarysem.edu

*Preparing men for the Roman Catholic Priesthood and serving as a center for
advanced theological studies for ecclesial ministry*

Est. 1848

November 3, 2025

Spring 2026 Academic Bulletin

Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology

Registration for Spring 2026 opens by November 13th

Welcome to the Spring 2026 semester! The pages that follow include the courses that are open to the Master of Arts (Theology) and Continuing Education students. Please note: There are several MA core courses being offered, both during the day and in the evening. Please be strategic in your selection of courses and make every effort to advance your degree requirements. Also, please pay attention to the gateway courses and be sure you have these first.

Last Call for Candidates for Graduation 2026

Any students who plan to graduate in May 2026 must complete the Graduation Application which was sent to all current eligible students and is included on the "Current Students" page of the seminary website. Deadline for May 2026 Graduation application is November 7, 2025. Students must have completed the 44 credit MA program (or be reasonably confident they are able to do so) and have begun their preparations for the MA symposium with the completion no later than March 17, 2026.

Spring 2026 Calendar

*Tentative. Subject to change.

January 5	Last Day to register without \$25 late fee
January 12	Classes begin (Monday classes)
January 19	MLK commemoration- MONDAY CLASSES MEET as scheduled.
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 27- March 8	SPRING BREAK after last class
March 9	Classes resume.
April 1	Easter Recess begins after last class
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 7	Classes resume
May 1	Last day of classes
May 4-5	Exams
May 7	Commencement
May 25	Grades Due

2025 – 2026 TUITION

Master of Arts and Continuing Education Programs

Credit Hour/per course:	\$375
Discounted Rate/per course:	\$325 (*see details below)
Audit (per course):	\$265
MA Graduation Fee:	\$300

*A special tuition rate of \$325.00 is granted to full time Cleveland Diocesan employees, Roman Catholic clergy, religious, Certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers serving in the Diocese of Cleveland, and those accepted into the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification process of the Diocese of Cleveland.

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BIBLICAL STUDIES

***Required MA core course**

SC 512

PROPHETIC LITERATURE

2 credits

Abigail Bodeau, PhD

Wednesday 1:30-3:20 pm

This course studies the canonical prophetic literature (except Daniel) considered within two contexts: ancient Jewish socio-religious history and the later Jewish and Christian appropriation of the tradition. The course will consider the phenomenon of prophecy, its literary expression, and the editorial/canonical history of these prophetic books. The course will focus on the major and minor prophets. Attention will be given to the themes, emphases, and major texts. **(Pre-requisite: SC 510 Biblical Hermeneutics)**

***SC 514**

SYNOPTIC GOSPELS AND ACTS (MA Core)

3 credits

Rev. Mark Ott, SSL

Tuesday 6:45 – 9:35 p.m.

This course serves as a special introduction to the Gospels of Mark, Luke, and Matthew. The course will explore the synoptic problem, redaction and form criticism, and the Gospels and history. The Apostolic Church and the Kerygma in the Acts of the Apostles will serve as a landscape for the course. Students will use selected passages of special doctrinal and liturgical import for exegesis. (Pre-requisite: SC 510 Biblical Hermeneutics) Note: SC 514 Synoptic Gospels and Acts is pre-requisite for TH 533 Christology. MA students who have not yet taken SC 514 are encouraged to do so, so that you are able to take TH 533 the next semester it is offered.)

***SC 515**

PAULINE LITERATURE AND CATHOLIC EPISTLES (MA Core)

2 credits

Abigail Bodeau, PhD

Monday 9:00-10:50 a.m.

This course begins with an overview of Paul's background, encounter with Jesus, missionary activity, letter writing, and theological perspectives. The course continues with an in-depth examination of the undisputed letters of Paul with exegesis of select texts of doctrinal and liturgical import. This course includes an introduction and exegesis of selected passages of James, I and II Peter, Jude, and Hebrews **(Pre-requisite: SC 510 Biblical Hermeneutics)**

PASTORAL THEOLOGY

PAS 561

CANON LAW II

3 credits

Rev. John Chrysostom Kozlowski, OP, JCD

Thursday 1:30 – 4:20 p.m.

Study of Book IV and the canons regarding penance and anointing, holy orders, and special emphasis on marriage are treated in this course. Pastoral care, preparation and celebration of marriage, plus canonical grounds for nullity and dissolution will be discussed. The student will be introduced to the practical handling of cases and procedures when dealing with the diocesan chancery or tribunal. The course will provide students with the necessary canonical knowledge regarding preparation and celebration of the sacraments and other acts of divine worship. **(Pre-requisite: PAS 360 Canon Law I)**

PAS 675 (ELECTIVE)

SELECTED TOPICS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

2 credits

Beth A. Rath, PhD

Thursday 9:40-11:30 a.m.

This seminar-style course explores broad themes in technology, especially artificial intelligence, and its impact on human society.

LITURGICAL & SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

***Required MA core course**

***LIT 560** **LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY (MA Core)** **3 credits**
Chad Gerber, DPhil **Thursday 1:30–4:20 p.m.**

This course serves as a theological introduction to the liturgical and sacramental life of the Roman Catholic Church. The course will consider the symbolic nature of liturgy, the sacramental principle and its importance in the form of faith celebrations. Critical reflection on liturgical practices will be linked to the liturgical tradition and Christian spirituality. Underlying commonalities of the sacraments will be considered. **(Note: This class is the pre-requisite for all other LIT courses and is required for the MA degree program.)**

LIT 584 **LITURGY AND THE ART OF RITUAL** **2 credits**
Rev. Christopher Trenta, SLL / Professor Agnieszka Bieniek, MA **Friday 9:40–11:30 a.m.**

This course offers a holistic approach to celebrating the Rites of the Catholic Church in a manner faithful to its Tradition and in service to the common spiritual good of its faith communities. Emphasis is given to preparing for parochial liturgies, the roles of parish liturgical music and art, liturgical ministries, liturgical law, and pastoral issues. **(Pre-requisite: LIT 560 Liturgical-Sacramental Theology)**

***LIT 591** **EUCCHARIST: SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE** **3 credits**
Chad Gerber, DPhil **Wednesday 6:45–9:35 p.m.**
(MA and CE only)

This examination of the Eucharist focuses upon the three interrelated ends of the sacrament: Christ remaining with his Church (presence), Christ offering his life for his Church (sacrifice), and Christ giving himself to his Church (communion). In addition to the systematic analysis of these themes, the Old and New Testament backgrounds to the Eucharist are surveyed together with the development of Eucharistic doctrine from the Church Fathers to the *ressourcement* theologians of the 20th century. The course concludes with a sustained consideration of the participation of the faithful in the Eucharistic celebration and its integration with one's life outside of the Mass, including the work of lay ministry. **(Pre-requisite: LIT 560 Liturgical-Sacramental Theology)**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

***Required MA core course**

***TH 532** **FUNDAMENTAL MORAL THEOLOGY (MA Core)** **3 credits**
Rev. Jeffrey Barnish, STL **Monday 1:30–4:20 p.m.**

Foundational issues concerning Christian morality will be treated, including the historical development of moral theology, foundations of moral experience, Roman Catholic sources of moral wisdom, and the foundation of moral norms. Special attention is given to examining the place of "Natural Law" in Catholic moral theology, the place of the virtues of love and prudence in the Christian moral life, and the place of conscience formation and concrete moral decision-making in a Catholic, Christian context. **(Pre-requisite: TH 530 Fundamental Theology)**

TH 534 **CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY** **3 credits**
Andrew Staron, PhD **Wednesday 9:00–11:50 a.m.**

This course is a study of grace and sin in view of the human condition seen in light of the salvific action of Jesus Christ. The origins and destiny of the human will be investigated together with the continuing struggle to express adequately what it means to be human.

***TH 537**

ECCLESIOLOGY

2 credits

Sr Mary McCormick, OSU, PhD

Wednesday 6:45 – 8:35 p.m.

The mission of the Church and the evolution of its structures will be examined especially in light of the teaching of Vatican II and subsequent developments. The course includes a study of the historical origins of the Church, models of the Church, laity, leadership, the common call to holiness, and ecumenism.

(Pre-requisite: TH 530 Fundamental Theology)

TH 541

CATHOLICS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND THE MORAL LIFE

3 credits

Rev. Joseph Koopman, STD

Monday 9:00-11:50 a.m.

This course offers an overview of Catholic social thought, both in its principles and how those principles have been applied to social issues in the modern age. The course will begin examining the foundational principles of the Church's social teaching and theological anthropology. The course will examine how these principles guide the Church in its specific teachings on particular social issues. Areas examined will be the centrality of the family and marriage, the theology of human work and the right of the worker, moral dimensions of political life and the economy, environmental ethics, just war theory, and capital punishment. **(Pre-requisite: TH 530 Fundamental Theology)**

HISTORICAL STUDIES

***Required MA core course**

***HIS 524**

CHURCH HISTORY II (MA Core)

3 credits

Rev. J. Patrick Manning, PhD

Monday 1:40-4:20 p.m.

This course surveys Church history from 1300 C.E. to the present time. Among topics treated in detail are the Avignon Papacy, the Western Schism, Conciliarism, the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Reform, Jansenism, the Church and Liberalism, Vatican Council I, Modernism, and Vatican Council II. Particular emphasis will be placed on important trends and ideas underlining these events and movements.

HIS 540 (ELECTIVE)

MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY

2 credits

Rev. J. Patrick Manning, PhD

Wednesday 1:30-3:20 p.m.

This course explores the variety and evolution of Christian beliefs and practices in the Latin Church from the fifth century (the emergence of distinctive Latin and Greek Christianities) through the early sixteenth century (the Reformation). Attention is given to such diverse topics as the conversion of Europe, the rise of monasticism, the Carolingian Renaissance, Christian kingship and the Investiture Controversy, the Gregorian Reform, the Crusades, dissent and institutional response, the relationship to those outside the faith, religious developments in the fifteenth century and Protestant and Catholic divergence.

DEGREE COMPLETION – MASTER OF ARTS

***MA 700 The Master of Arts (Theology) Capstone Symposium**
Faculty Advisor

1 credit (No charge)
Arranged with Advisor

At the completion of all course work or in the final semester of their degree program, the student is required to select a theological topic and complete a symposium that demonstrates the integration, aptitude, and competence in the respective fields. The student chooses one of three formats for the written component of the symposium. The symposium consists of a 15-25 minute presentation by the student, followed by a discussion with the student's committee. A pass/fail grade is assigned based on the student's written and oral presentation. All capstone symposia must be completed by March 17, 2026. Students expecting to graduate in May 2026 should register for the MA Capstone Symposium. **(Please register for this course in the semester you plan to prepare and present your MA symposium. To be eligible for the May 7, 2026, Commencement Ceremony, all symposia must be presented, passed, and submitted to the Registrar by March 17, 2026.)**

SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 12, 2026

(Last day to register without incurring \$25 late fee: Friday, January 5, 2026)

- Tuition: \$375.00 per semester credit hour
- A special tuition of \$325.00 per credit hour is granted to Roman Catholic clergy, religious, and certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers or those in the certification process, and full-time parish or school employees.
- Auditors pay \$265.00 per course.
- Payment is accepted through the Payment Portal on *Populi* or by check payable to Saint Mary Seminary. *Please wait until you are invoiced to submit your payment. Thank you!*

Online registration begins no later than November 12, 2025.

Returning students can register for classes on-line at: www.stmarysem.edu

Click on the "Current Students" menu in the top navigation.

Required books will be posted on *Populi* around December 5th.

**For general information regarding admission to the
Master of Arts (Theology) program, or for application and registration assistance contact:**

Carolyn Apperson, DMin, Registrar
(440) 943-7578 e-mail: capperson@dioceseofcleveland.org