

Summer/Fall Semester – 2026

Academic Bulletin

MA (Theology) and Continuing Education Students



Saint Mary Seminary
and Graduate School of Theology
28700 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092
www.stmarysem.edu rev. 04-16-2026

REGISTRATION - FALL 2026

OPENS May 1, 2026

Welcome to the Fall 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. Courses have been scheduled based on the availability of faculty and responses to the earlier surveys sent to current students. Please be strategic in your selection of courses, especially if you plan to graduate in 2027, and make every effort to further your degree requirements. Also, please pay attention to the **pre-requisite courses** and be sure you have these first. If you have any questions about your academic program, please contact Carolyn Apperson, DMin. Online registration for current students is available on the “Current Students” page on the seminary website: www.stmarysem.edu.

Further information regarding the Fall semester will be sent to students via your Populi student account throughout the summer.

Regarding Summer 2026, there will be two MA core courses taught as an intensive, Canon Law for Pastoral Ministers and Fundamental Theology. See page 2 of this bulletin for details. Please register for a summer course on the Summer 2026 online registration link on the “Current Student” page of the Saint Mary Seminary website.

SUMMER 2026

SUMMER registration begins on April 1, 2026. Last day to register: May 7, 2026.

Contact the Registrar via email to register for summer classes; capperson@dioceseofcleveland.org.

*** = Required MA Core Course**

E = Elective option for MA degree (4 electives of student’s choice required)

E PAS 562 CANON LAW FOR PASTORAL MINISTERS

Lynette Tait, JCL

2 credits

Information Session

April 13, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Class dates and times to be determined.

Canon law is a useful source of information and guidance for people engaged in ministry in the Catholic Church. The course will focus upon the development, interpretation, and application of canon law. The nature and structure of the local and universal Church will be studied. Special emphasis will be given to topics that pertain to parish ministry and structures, including the sacraments. (Class times to be determined at the Information Session.)

***TH 530 FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY**

Andrew Staron, PhD

3 credits

T-Th 1:30 – 4:20 p.m.

May 7th – June 23rd

Final Paper Due July 31, 11:59 p.m.

The concepts of revelation, faith, tradition, inspiration, canonicity, inerrancy, theology, and the meaning of dogma and its development are treated in relationship to the normative role of Scripture, tradition, and the magisterium. The *sensus fidelium*, pluralism, and theological hermeneutics will be considered. 3 Credits
(Note: TH 530 is the pre-requisite course for all other Systematics requirements.)

FALL 2026

BIBLICAL STUDIES

***SC 510 BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS**

2 credits

Rev. Mark Ott, SSL

Monday 9:40–11:30 a.m.

This course introduces the history, methods, and philosophical groundings of scriptural interpretation. The course will attempt to make conscious and explicit a sampling of the available avenues of interpretation by which understanding a scriptural text is possible. Both historical and post-critical methodologies will be explored. A survey of the attempt to understand the historical Jesus will be included.

(Note: This course serves as a prerequisite for all Scripture courses.)

***SC 511 PENTATEUCH AND HISTORICAL BOOKS**

3 credits

Abigail Bodeau, PhD

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

The course introduces students to both the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) and the two Old Testament “histories,” the so-called Deuteronomistic History (Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, and 1-2 Kings), and Chronicler’s History (1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah). These books will be treated with attention to their historical and cultural backgrounds as well as to their literary, theological, canonical, and contemporary dimensions. **(Pre-requisite: SC 510 Biblical Hermeneutics)**

E SC 513 PSALMS AND WISDOM

2 credits

Abigail Bodeau, PhD

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

This course will first examine the formation, use, and significance of the book of Psalms. A few individual psalms will then be studied, with special attention not only to their literary genre but also to their poetic design, location within the Psalter, theological value, and reinterpretation in Israel and in the Christian Church. Attention will next turn to the Wisdom literature (Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth, Sirach, Wisdom, and the Song of Songs) for a consideration of their origin, literary structure, and theological significance.

(Pre-requisite: SC 510 Biblical Hermeneutics)

E SC 516 JOHANNINE LITERATURE

2 credits

Daniel Garland, PhD

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

The course offers an introduction to the letters of John and a discussion of their location within developing Johannine Christianity. Attention is given to the distinctiveness of Johannine Literature among the Gospels, to its literary and theological structure, and to selected texts. The course concludes with a study of the book of Revelation, especially its literary genre, its interpretation and enduring value, and a few chosen texts.

(Pre-requisite: SC 510 Biblical Hermeneutics)

PASTORAL THEOLOGY

E PAS 552 PASTORAL COUNSELING

3 credits

Luke Brown, LPC

Wednesday 6:45-9:35 p.m.

This course will employ presentations, discussions, case studies, and role-playing to assist the students to integrate counseling theory and techniques. Topics of boundary issues, grief counseling, addiction and family counseling will be considered. This agenda provides exposure to the various pastoral issues, allows for limited exploration of how to initially handle conversation, analyze the issue, and make referral.

E PAS 556 EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS**2 credits****Rev Michael Stalla, DMin****Thursday 10:00-11:50 a.m.**

This course surveys the principles of Evangelization and Catechesis in light of the Church's missionary mandate, the new evangelization, and the pedagogy of God. An ecclesial approach to catechetical methodology will be rooted in Sacred Scripture and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and take into account selected aspects of educational theory. A special segment of the course will focus on the unique mission of the Catholic School. The course prepares the seminarian for the field education practicum in the Catholic School. Parish catechetical leaders will enhance their ability to train catechists for effective teaching.

E PAS 560 CANON LAW I**3 credits****Rev. John Chrysostom Kozlowski, O.P., JCD****Thursday 1:30-4:20 p.m.**

A general introduction to Church law, its relationship to theology, and its role in the Church is offered in this course, including principles of interpretation as well as basic canonical concepts of Book I. Topics from Book II include rights and responsibilities of laity, religious, and clergy, ecclesial structures of collegiality and shared responsibility at the parish, diocesan, supra-diocesan, and universal levels, with special focus on the local Church. A brief introduction is given to the power of governance, the Church's teaching office, and the sacraments of initiation.

E PAS 665 Theological Themes in Literature: Catholic Authors and Short Stories**2 credits****Rev. J. Patrick Manning, PhD****Friday 9:40 -11:30 a.m.**

Focusing primarily on Roman Catholic authors, and their various works (e.g. short stories), this seminar style course seeks to engender an appreciation of both Roman Catholic theological anthropology and the Liberal Arts. In particular, this course will dialogue with many of life's pressing theological themes (e.g. grace, the dignity of human life, death, the "Last Things", Original Sin, the Suffering of the Innocent, and various social justice issues).

LITURGICAL & SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

E LIT 501-a CHANTS OF THE ROMAN MISSAL**0.5 credit****Agnieszka Bieniek, DMin (Cand)****Thursday 3:45-4:35 p.m.**

The course introduces participants to the art of liturgical chanting. Emphasis is placed on proper vocal technique, understanding of liturgical texts, and the integration of chant into prayerful leadership. Students develop confidence in proclaiming the liturgy with clarity, reverence, and musical sensitivity.

LIT 560 LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY*3 credits****Chad Gerber, DPhil****Tuesday 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. **(Pre-requisite for all other LIT courses and is required for the MA degree program.)**

E LIT 583 MARRIAGE: LITURGY AND SACRAMENT**Chad Gerber, DPhil****1 credit****Wednesday 9:40 – 11:30 a.m.****(Weeks #1 – 7)**

This course defines the Sacrament of Marriage within the mission and ministries of Christ and His Church. The course considers the theology of this sacrament, its historical development, and its liturgical celebration. It examines the vocation of marriage from the perspective of its mission and witness to the Christian community. The course explores some contemporary issues related to marriage in light of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. **(Pre-requisite: LIT 560 Liturgical-Sacramental Theology)**

E LIT 588 BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION**Rev. Christopher Trenta, SLL****2 credits****Thursday 1:30-3:20 p.m.**

This course presents theological and pastoral consideration of the Roman Catholic Church's rituals of initiation, taking as its normative point of departure the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as the focus. Included will be an examination of the sources and development of the Church's initiatory practice and discussion of pertinent contemporary pastoral issues. **(Pre-requisite: LIT 560 Liturgical-Sacramental Theology)**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

TH 530 FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY*Andrew Staron, PhD****3 credits****Wednesday 9-11:50 a.m.**

The concepts of revelation, faith, tradition, inspiration, canonicity, inerrancy, theology, and the meaning of dogma and its development are treated in relationship to the normative role of Scripture, tradition, and the magisterium. The *sensus fidelium*, pluralism, and theological hermeneutics will be considered. 3 Credits **(Note: TH 530 is the pre-requisite course for all other Systematics requirements.)**

TH 533 CHRISTOLOGY*Andrew Staron, PhD****3 credits****Monday 9:00-11:50 a.m.**

The ongoing theological interpretation of Jesus the Christ will be studied especially as the Church has come to understand the profound interrelationship between the human and divine through the Scriptures, the texts of the great Christological Councils, and its ongoing life of faith.

(Pre-requisite: TH 530 Fundamental Theology)**E TH 538 BIOETHICS****Rev. Joseph M. Koopman, STD****2 credits****Tuesday 9:40-11:30 a.m.**

This course investigates various issues in the field of biomedicine considering present magisterial teaching, ethical principles and contemporary reflection. Fundamental principles of moral action are applied to some of the pressing contemporary issues concerning the beginning and ending of human life, such as "high tech" reproductive procedures, genetic engineering, withholding, or withdrawing artificial life-support systems, artificial nutrition and hydration, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. **(Pre-requisite: TH 532 Fundamental Moral Theology)**

TH 545 GOD: ONE AND THREE*Sr. Mary McCormick, OSU, PhD****2 credits****Tuesday 6:45-8:35 p.m.**

This systematic study of the doctrine of the Trinity will explore the biblical, historical, and magisterial foundations of the nature of God as it was defined amid the early Christological controversies and councils. Current developments in Trinitarian theology will be handled considering modern understandings of language, methodology, symbols and faith experience. 2 Credits **(*Pre-requisite: TH 530 Fundamental Theology)**

ETH 550 MARY AND THE SAINTS

2 credits

Sr. Mary McCormick, OSU, PhD

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

This course will explore Mary’s role within the Church as first among the saints. It includes a brief review of the person of Mary and the saints throughout the history of this tradition. However, emphasis will be given to contemporary theological reflection on the place of Mary and the communion of saints within the Church’s doctrine. Special attention will be given to the Roman Catholic Church’s teachings on the virtue of justice, the principles of the common good, subsidiarity, the preferential option for the poor, and solidarity.

HISTORICAL STUDIES

***HIS 522 CHURCH HISTORY I**

3 credits

Rev. J. Patrick Manning, PhD

Monday 1:30-4:20p.m.

This course surveys the Church’s growth and development from sub-apostolic times to the year 1300 C.E. The course will examine the Patristic Age through readings from the Apostolic Fathers, the Apologists, and the theologians of the third and fourth centuries. Special focus will be given to the Golden Age of the Church Fathers and to the major councils of the Church in that period. Developments, trends, and events of medieval times will be discussed, including the papacy, monasticism, the formation of Europe, the Dark Ages, relationships between Eastern and Western expressions of Christianity, Islam, the Crusades, Cluniac Reforms, the Investiture Controversy, and the Inquisition.

DEGREE COMPLETION

***MA 700 THE MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY) CAPSTONE SYMPOSIUM**

1 credit (no charge)

Faculty Advisor

Arranged with Advisor

REVISED 2026: At the completion of all course work or in the final semester of their degree program, the student is required to complete a symposium that demonstrates integration, aptitude, and competence in theology. The symposium engages the student’s 25-40 page research paper, integrating two areas of study, prepared in advance according to the MA handbook, and written under the guidance of a faculty committee. The symposium consists of a 20-minute presentation of the research paper by the student, followed by a discussion with the student’s committee. Students should begin symposium preparations at least a year prior to their expected graduation. A pass/fail grade is assigned based on the student’s written and oral presentation. The grade and title of the project are recorded on the student’s transcript. Students expecting to graduate in May 2027 should register for the MA Capstone Symposium in either the Fall or Spring semester.

FALL SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

(Last day to register without incurring \$25 late fee: Monday, August 3, 2026)

- Tuition: \$375.00 per semester credit hour
- A special discounted tuition of \$325.00 per credit hour is granted to Roman Catholic clergy, religious, and Certified Lay Ministers serving in the Diocese of Cleveland and those accepted into the Diaconate Formation Program or into the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification process of the Diocese of Cleveland.
- Auditors pay \$265.00 per course.
- Billing will be done through your *Populi* student profile.
- Refer to refund policy for details related to withdrawal or change of student status. (Go to [Catalog](#) and select page 21)

REGISTRATION

SUMMER registration begins on April 1, 2026. Last day to register: May 7, 2026.

Contact the Registrar via email to register for summer classes; capperson@dioceseofcleveland.org.

Online Fall registration begins May 1, 2026.

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

Click on the "[Current Students](#)" menu in the top navigation.

Fall 2026 Booklists will be posted on *Populi* around July 1st.

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

Carolyn Apperson, DMin, Registrar

(440) 943-7600, ext 7578; e-mail: capperson@dioceseofcleveland.org

2026-2027 ATTENDANCE CALENDAR

(Dates are tentative and subject to change.)

August 3	Last Day to register without \$25 late fee.
August 21	Classes begin.
September 7	Labor Day – NO CLASSES
October 6	Mid-term break begins after last class (Classes resume Tuesday October 13)
November 24	Thanksgiving recess begins after last class. (Classes resume Monday November 30)
December 7	Last Day of Classes
December 8	Patronal Feast (No classes)
December 9-10	Exams
December 10	Christmas recess begins.
December 30	Grades Due
January 11	Spring 2027 semester begins
January 18	MLK Day – No Classes
Feb 19-Feb 28	Spring Break
Mar 1	Classes resume
Mar 23	Chrism Mass – No Classes
Mar 24	Easter Break after last responsibility (No Class for SMS)
Mar 30	Classes resume
May 3	Last class day of Spring semester
May 4	Reading day
May 5-6	Final Exams
May 7	Baccalaureate Liturgy at 7 pm
May 29	Grades due