Spring Semester – 2027

Academic Bulletin

Courses open to MA (Theology) and Continuing Education Students



Saint Mary Seminary
and Graduate School of Theology
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Preparing men for the Roman Catholic Priesthood and serving as a center for advanced theological studies for ecclesial ministry
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Spring 2027 Academic Bulletin

Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology

Registration for Spring 2027 opens by November 2nd

Welcome to the Spring 2027 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 2027

Any students who plan to graduate in May 2027 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 2027 Graduation application is November 15, 2026. 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, 2027.

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Spring 2027 Calendar

***Tentative. Subject to change.**

January 5	Last Day to register without $25 late fee
January 11	Classes begin (Monday classes)
January 18	MLK commemoration-**NO CLASSES**
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 19 – February 28	SPRING BREAK after last class
March 1	Classes resume.
March 23	Chrism Mass – No SMS classes
March 24	No SMS classes
March 28	Easter Sunday
March 30	Classes resume
May 3	Last day of classes
May 5-6	Final Exams
May 7	Baccalaureate Liturgy at 7 pm
May 29	Grades Due

2026 – 2027 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, those accepted into the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification process of the Diocese of Cleveland and full-time parish or school employees.*

BIBLICAL STUDIES

***Required MA core course**

SC 512 ***PROPHETIC LITERATURE*** ***2 credits***

Abigail Bodeau, PhD ***Wednesday 3:15 – 5:05 p.m.***

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, emphasis, and major texts. **(Pre-requisite: SC 510 Biblical Hermeneutics)**

SC 514 ***SYNOPTIC GOSPELS AND ACTS (MA Core)*** ***3 credits***

Fr Dcn Daniel Garland, PhD ***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***

Fr Mark Ott, SSL ***Wednesday 2:30 – 4:20 p.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 553a ***INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY*** ***2 credits***

Fr Patrick Kassab, PhD ***Monday 1:30-4:20 p.m.***

This course introduces the student to the beauty and depth of Christian spirituality. Some of the aspects of Christian spirituality to which the student will be introduced are the nature of Christian spirituality, asceticism, mysticism and pastoral spirituality; mystical insights by some of the great Catholic "Doctors" of the Church, prayer, and forgiveness; St. Ignatius' Rules for the Discernment of Spirits.

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)**

LITURGICAL & SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

E *LIT 501b* ***CHANTS OF THE ROMAN MISSAL*** ***0.5 credit***
Agnieszka Bieniek, DMin (Cand) ***Thursday 4:04-4:35 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.

E *LIT 565* ***BEING A MYSTAGOGUE: THE LITURGICAL FORMATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE*** ***2 credits***
Most Rev. Michael Woost, STL ***Monday 9:40-11:30 a.m.***
In recent audiences, Pope Leo XIV has called for the renewed liturgical formation of clergy, seminarians, and all God's People. This course will explore the themes associated with liturgical formation as highlighted by the Holy Father and the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Participants will read foundational resources and magisterial documents outlining the Church's vision of the liturgy as the primary means for human sanctification and the glorification of God. Pastoral applications for liturgical catechesis and celebration will be developed as well.

LIT 584 ***LITURGY AND THE ART OF RITUAL*** ***2 credits***
Rev. Christopher Trenta, SLL / Professor Agnieszka Bieniek, MA ***Thursday 1:30-3:20 p.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)**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

****Required MA core course***

****TH 532*** ***FUNDAMENTAL MORAL THEOLOGY (MA Core)*** ***3 credits***
Rev. Jeffrey Barnish, STL ***Monday 9:00-11:50 a.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.

DEGREE COMPLETION – MASTER OF ARTS

***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 students' 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 contact Dr. Andrew Staron (astaron@dioceseofcleveland.org) asap. To be eligible for the May 7, 2027, Commencement Ceremony, all symposia must be presented, passed, and submitted to the Registrar by March 17, 2027.)**

SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 11, 2027

(Last day to register without incurring $25 late fee: Tuesday, January 5, 2027)

- 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 2, 2026.
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