



AMERICAN
NATIONAL
CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE

Liturgical Practices II: The Sacramental Rites and Liturgy

Spring Semester 2026

Course Syllabus

COURSE TITLE

TH-126, "Liturgical Practices II: The Sacramental Rites and Liturgy"

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Time: Saturdays, April 18 – June 27, 2026 via ZOOM

Semester: Spring, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructors: (Rev.) Mark DeStephano, Ph.D. and (Rev.) Anthony Martinez

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Phone: (Rev.) Mark DeStephano [201-234-9298]; (Rev.) Anthony Martinez [575-642-2472]

Office hours: The course instructors prefer to be contacted first by email unless the matter is urgent. The instructors will respond to email communications as soon as possible. If you would like the instructors to contact you by phone, please include your number in your email. Also, please indicate if the matter is urgent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course will explore and explain the historical and spiritual significance in the administration of the seven sacraments of the Church. The practicum will allow for the development of proper form and administration of the Rites of Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick. It will also address the conducting of non-Eucharistic services for funerals or weddings.

Upon successful completion of this class, you will be able to:

- Explain what a sacrament is
- Delineate the seven sacraments of the Catholic Tradition
- Discuss the development of the theologies of the sacraments over the centuries
- Explain the reforms of the Second Vatican Council concerning the administration of the sacraments
- Demonstrate the ability to properly administer the sacraments according to the reforms of Vatican Council II and the practices of the ANCC

TEXTS

In addition to the required texts listed below, supplementary readings may be assigned from the following texts. The instructor will provide these additional readings as handouts at no cost to the participants. Assigned readings will make use of the abbreviated references in bold print.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Martos, Joseph. 1981. *Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to Sacraments in the Catholic Church*. New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 2014. [You may use the 1981 edition]

ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK

All participants, including auditors, are expected to participate in class discussions and to complete the assigned readings in advance of each class. Throughout the course the instructor will ask participants, including auditors, to take a role in presenting a particular subtopic, which will require additional preparation.

Students who are auditing the course are exempt from the course requirements, although asked to be diligent in attendance and reading and to participate fully in the class discussions. But are perfectly welcome (and encouraged!) to take on any or all of the non-formation credit requirements.

Participants in formation and all those taking this course for credit are required to complete the following:

Students are advised that they are required to study all notes provided by the professors BEFORE the class meetings. Class meetings will be discussions of the course materials, and, in the practical section of the course, will be discussions and critiques of student presentations. Questions to be answered will be taken from the materials studied before the class meetings and will form the basis of class discussions. Required readings are indicated by the surname of the author, followed by the pages to be read. Readings from the documents of Vatican II will be indicated as such. Readings from the Sacramentary will also be indicated as such.

- (1) "A History of Sacraments": Professor's Notes and Martos, Chapters 1-5, pp. 9-160. Assignment 1: Answer Questions (Due April 25, 2026)**
- (2) "Histories of the Sacraments" [Sacraments of Initiation]; Professor's Notes and Martos, Chapters 6-8, pp. 161-306; Assignment 2: Answer Questions (Due May 2, 2026)**
- (3) "Histories of the Sacraments" [Sacraments of Healing]; Professor's Notes and Martos, pp. 307-396; Assignment 3: Answer Questions (Due May 9, 2026)**
- (4) "Histories of the Sacraments" [Sacraments of Serving the Church and the Mission of the Faithful]; Professor's Notes and Martos, pp. 397-529; Assignment 4: Answer Questions (Due May 16, 2026)**
- (5) Administering the Sacraments of Baptism, and Confirmation; Professor's Notes; Assignment 5: Answer Questions (Due May 23, 2026)**
- (6) Administering the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick; Professor's Notes; Assignment 6: Introduction to the Roman Missal Answer Reflection questions. (May 30, 2026)**
- (7) Administering the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony; Professor's Notes; Assignment 7: Answer the Reflection Questions (June 6, 2026)**
- (8) Assignment 8: Answer the Reflection Questions (June 13, 2026)**
- (9) Assignment 9: Review of Video Recordings (June 20, 2026)**
- (10) Assignment 10: Review of Video Recordings (June 27, 2026)**

Formatting and Submission of papers: Papers must be prepared using Microsoft Word or a Microsoft Word compatible/equivalent word processor. All papers must conform to the following format:

Type font: Times New Roman 12 point. Text should be typed in regular face except for emphasis, which may be done using boldface, underlining, italics or a combination of the three. Headings and subheadings should be no larger than 16 point.

Margins, Paragraphs and line spacing: Papers should use a one-inch margin on all four sides. Using the "Paragraph" dropdown menu, select "0" space before each paragraph and 6 pt. space after each paragraph. Doing this eliminates hard breaks that take up unnecessary space (in other words, there should be no paragraph space holders between each paragraph). Set the line spacing to 1.5.

Page numbering: Insert and center page numbers in the footer of each page (using the page number dropdown menu from the "Insert" menu tab allows you to insert and center page numbers automatically).

Citations and Notes: Documentation of your sources and ideas is essential in academic writing. Please use a standard style for uniform citations; you may wish to consult one of several style books for this purpose. You may use either footnotes or endnotes.

Submission of your papers: All papers should be converted to PDF files and emailed to the instructor before 5 PM eastern time on the date they are due. Papers that do not meet the formatting requirements outlined above will not be accepted and will be returned for proper formatting.

PLAGIARISM AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Refer to the ANCTI Policies and Procedures for the ANCTI policy on plagiarism and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in courses.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Participants are expected to attend each of the ten classes of the course. Perfect attendance, while desired, is not always possible to achieve for reasons beyond a participant's control. Accordingly, a participant may have up to three unexcused class absences. Additional absences will result in a reduction in the participant's grade and absence from more than six classes will result in the participant being automatically withdrawn from the course and the final evaluation will so reflect.

All participants are expected to actively engage the course material and class discussions. Class participation forms an element of the grade for participants taking the course for credit, but even those not taking the

course for credit are encouraged to participate fully as discussion is a vital part of the learning experience.

Presence in Class on Cameras. All course participants should be aware of the requirements regarding presence in live online instruction: Unless specifically excused by the instructor, each participant is required to participate via a live camera and the participant's presence must be seen as actively present on the camera view in the class. A static screenshot or similar static symbol is not permitted except for very brief periods of less than five minutes should a participant need to step away from the class for personal care. Should a somewhat longer period be required, the participant must secure the instructor's permission, preferably in advance, and may be taken only with the instructor's approval. Use of this exception should not be abused during any class session.

Because all classes are conducted via Zoom, participants must mute their microphone once the class has begun and unmute when they wish to ask a question, make a comment or respond to something raised during the class. Care must be taken not to "speak over" one another.

Participants are expected to always show the utmost courtesy and respect for others participating in the course.

Other policies and procedures: Participants should consult the ANCTI website (<https://antci.org>) for additional policies and procedures pertaining to Institute courses.

Withdrawal: Participants should also refer to the Institute's Policy and Procedures (available on the Institute's website at <https://ancti.org>) regarding course withdrawals.

GRADING

Grades for this course will be determined through evaluation of class participation, assignments, and presentations, both written and oral.

Participants will be evaluated using the following indicators of performance:

GRADING SCALE

Percent	Letter Grade	4.0 Scale
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
69 or less	F	1.3

Weighted elements of your grade: Attendance (10%); Participation (50%); Assignments (40%)

Final grades for this course will be reported to the Registrar. Participants receive official notification of their grade and Certificate of Completion from the Rector.

Late Work: If a participant is aware of a situation that will cause work to be submitted late or a presentation not to be made on time, the participant should inform the instructor as soon as possible to request an excusal from the work deadline or the presentation date. If excused, the instructor will assign a new due date no later than two weeks after the announced deadline. Unexcused work/presentations will result in no credit for that work or presentation. Unexcused work/presentations submitted late because of an unforeseen emergency will be accepted when a reasonable explanation, as determined in the instructor's sole discretion, is provided.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework	Major Deadlines
Class 1	"A History of Sacraments"	Professor's Notes and Martos, Chapters 1-5, pp. 9-160. Assignment 1: Answer Questions (Due April 25, 2026)
Class 2	"Histories of the Sacraments" [Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist]	Professor's Notes and Martos, Chapters 6-8, pp. 161-306; Assignment 2: Answer Questions (Due May 2, 2026)
Class 3	"Histories of the Sacraments" [Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick]	Professor's Notes and Martos, pp. 307-396; Assignment 3: Answer Questions (Due May 9, 2026)
Class 4	"Histories of the Sacraments" [Sacraments of Serving the Church and the Mission of the Faithful" [Holy Orders and Matrimony]	Professor's Notes and Martos, pp. 397-529; Assignment 4: Answer Questions (Due May 16, 2026)
Class 5	Discussion on presiding and cultural adaptation in the sacraments	Professor's Notes; Answer Questions (Due May 23, 2026)
Class 6	Administering the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation	Professor's Notes: Instruction on the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation

Class 7	Administering the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick	Professor's Notes: Instruction on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Pastoral Care of the Sick
Class 8	Administering the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony	Professor's Notes: Instruction on the Sacraments of Matrimony
Class 9	Video Reviews	Review of Video Recordings (Due to the instructor on June 6, 2026)
Class 10	Video Reviews	Further Review of Video Recordings