

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

TITLE: SACRAMENTS

TERM: January to April 2018 [20181]

**SCHEDULE: Classes begin January 8, 2018; SAS timetable is available on SAS Website: [www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca) for day, time and room location.**

PROFESSOR: DR. DONALD GRAHAM

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO 25 UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Fathers of Vatican II say that in the Church, "the life of Christ is poured into the believers who, through the sacraments, are united in a hidden and real way to Christ who suffered and was glorified" (LG 7). This course considers the sacraments of the Catholic Church as the means whereby Christians are mystically united to the life of Christ. While a historical approach places course material in context, direct attention is focused upon the theological dimensions of Christ as the primordial sacrament, the Church as the sacrament of Christ and the sevenfold sacraments as privileged, engrafted ways of encountering the risen God-man. While particular questions that conditioned the development of current sacramental theology, and the nature of sacramental symbol in general are examined to varying degrees, the primary focus of the course is upon the sacraments as liturgical rites by which Christian life is both celebrated, and in which the risen God-man is encountered.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Course participants will:

1. identify and become familiar with some foundational principles of Catholic sacramental theology, located in important sources, relative to central themes.
2. learn how to interpret theological questions on the sacraments according to the mind of the Church by exposure to first rate practitioners of the Tradition.
3. develop an appropriate theological vocabulary on sacraments.
4. recognize the relevance of these sacramental principles and sacramental themes, not only for the broader enterprise of theology, but for contemporary living.
5. grow in historical knowledge of the context in which these foundational sacramental principles and central sacramental themes have come under scrutiny and reappeared in different guises.
6. apply the knowledge and skills acquired in 1-5 in tasks which permit one to communicate understanding and insight relative to context-specific pastoral contexts, especially, in midterm and summative assignments.
7. encounter images and texts that open one to understanding these foundational sacramental principles and central sacramental themes *via* art and prayer.

## **PREREQUISITES:**

Registration in M.R.E., M.T.S., M.Div. programs or by permission of SAS Registrar

## **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Joseph Martos, Joseph. *Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to Sacraments in the Catholic Church*, Golden Anniversary Edition (Liguori, Missouri: Liguori, 2014)

Edward Schillebeeckx, OP, *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 1963, republished 2001)

Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> revised and expanded edition (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1982)

## **POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

- A. Multiple Choice Reading Quizzes (10%; 6 x 1.67%)
- B. Posts and responses (40%; 4 x 10%)
- C. Mid-term assignment (20%)
- D. Summative assignment (30%)

## **ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Students are to consult the extensive, updated sets of bibliographies provided in our course text, Joseph Martos, *Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to Sacraments in the Catholic Church*. Liguori, Missouri: Liguori, 2014. These bibliographies were updated in the latest edition, run to over fifty pages, are keyed to topics (e.g. each sacrament, sacraments today, the history of the development of the sacraments) and within each topic are subdivided by helpful headings like 'Further Reading'; 'History and Theology'; 'Liturgical and Pastoral Dimensions'; 'Ecumenical Dimensions' and specialized sub-topics appropriate for the specific theme like 'Sin' and 'The Order of Penitents' in the specialized bibliography for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.