The Church measures time and lives not by the civic calendar but according to its own cycle of feasts and seasons. This course will explore the relationship between the liturgy and a lived experience of time in the contemporary world. It will examine the origins, evolution, and theological meaning of the central feasts and seasons of what is called the liturgical or Church year: the original Christian feast of Sunday; Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany; Lent, Easter, and Pentecost; and with some attention to the feasts of the saints. What do we celebrate on such occasions and how might we celebrate these feasts and seasons "fully," "consciously," and "actively?" Of special interest to those who work with the liturgical year in a variety of ways and for all who seek to understand the way in which the Church expresses itself theologically by means of a particular calendar, as well as for theology majors and interested graduate students in theology.

Goals and Objectives:

This course is about the acquisition of knowledge with a view toward the critical evaluation of the liturgical year especially within the Roman Catholic Church and in a variety of contemporary churches today. While pastoral issues may certainly be considered, the course is neither a "how-to-do-the rites" course nor is it concerned with offering blueprints for pastoral practice in the variety of settings from which students come or to which they are going. Rather, this course takes as its premise that studying the Liturgical Year as it actually appears within the various strata of the Christian tradition is the way to know the meaning and function of the Liturgical Year. This involves a knowledge of both the history of the Liturgical Year and the history of its theological interpretation. Only then can one adequately evaluate its current shape(s).

More specifically, this course intends to assist students in acquiring:

1. A thorough knowledge of the history and theology of the liturgical year;
2. An ability to articulate the central foci of the various feasts and seasons in the life of the Church; and
3. An ability to celebrate "fully, actively, and consciously" the One Mystery of Christ as it is expressed and reflected in the Sundays, feasts, and seasons of the liturgical year.
Course Requirements:

The above goals and objectives will be met by:

1. Attendance at and participation (discussion, dialogue, etc.) in all class sessions;
2. Keeping up with the assigned reading;
3. Three Unit Take-Home Written Examinations (as indicated below);

GRADING:

Grades will be determined on the basis of "full, active, and conscious participation," as well as the take-home exams.

NOTE: The grade A is reserved for what is considered to be exceptional work; an A- or B+ means that work is at a level of solid and high quality, a level above what is necessary to successfully complete the requirements for the course; a B is good solid work; a C+ is a passing grade meaning that an assignment was completed but in need of improvement and/or further development or clarification; and a C, although a passing grade, indicates some serious problems.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READING

M. Johnson (ed.), *Between Memory and Hope: Readings on the Liturgical Year*. Collegeville, 2000. (BMH)

NOTE: Some "required reading" for discussion purposes will be expected from texts as indicated in the syllabus!

RECOMMENDED READING


**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TOPICS**

**INTRODUCTORY UNIT: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FEASTS AND SEASONS**

**General Reading for Introductory Unit –**

*Required*

BMH, Introduction

Taft, “The Liturgical Year: Studies, Prospects, Reflections,” in *BMH*, pp. 3-23


*Recommended:* Adam, Chapters I-III, and X; Connell, Vol. 1, 1-54

**M, JULY 7:** Introduction to the Course, Liturgy and Time

**T, JULY 8:** Theological Foundations

**W, JULY 9:** Feasts and Seasons

The Liturgical Year: An Overview of its Historical Evolution and Meaning

Competing Calendars

**Unit I: FROM SABBATH TO SUNDAY**

**General Reading for Unit I –**

*Required*

*OFFS*, pp. 3-36;

Essays by Porter, “Day of the Lord,”

Searle, “Sunday: The Heart of the Liturgical Year,” and


*Recommended:* Adam, chapter IV; Connell, vol. 2, chapter 1;

**Th, JULY 10:** From Sabbath to Sunday I

Origins of Sunday Celebration; Evolution of Sunday; Evolution and Contemporary Reform;
F, JULY 11: From Sabbath to Sunday II
   Continued: Origins of Sunday Celebration; Evolution of Sunday; Evolution and Contemporary Reform;

Take-Home Exam #1 Distributed

UNIT II: FROM PASSOVER TO PASCHA

General Reading for Unit II –
   Required
   OFFS, pp. 39-69;
   "Talley, "History and Eschatology in the Primitive Pascha", in BMH, pp. 99-109;
   Bradshaw, “The Origins of Easter,” in BMH, pp. 111-124;
   Regan, "The Three Days and the Forty Days" in BMH, pp. 125-141;
   Regan, "Veneration of the Cross" in BMH, pp. 143-153;
   Talley, "The Origin of Lent at Alexandria"; in BMH, pp. 183-206;
   Johnson, “Preparation for Pascha?” in BMH, pp. 207-222;
   Regan, "The Fifty Days" in BMH, pp. 223-246;
   R. Brown, Crucified Christ and Risen Christ;
   LaCugna, “Making the Most of Trinity Sunday,” in BMH, pp. 247-261.

   Recommended: Adam, V; Connell, Vol. 2, Chapters 2, 3, and 4; Brown, Risen Christ.

M, JULY 14: From Passover to Pascha I
   Origins and Controversies; Evolution of Easter
   Paschal Triduum and Holy Week

T, JULY 15: From Passover to Pascha II:
   Includes Discussion of R. Brown, A Crucified Christ in Holy Week

W, JULY 16: From Passover to Pascha III
   Origins, Development, and Meaning of Lent

   Take-Home Exam #2 Due
   Take-Home Exam #3 (Over Pascha) distributed

TH, JULY 17: From Passover to Pascha IV
   The Easter Season, Pentecost, and Ascension
UNIT III: FROM PASCHA TO PAROUSIA

Reading for Unit III –
   Required
   OFFS, pp. 123-168;
   Brown, Adult Christ;
   Talley, "Constantine and Christmas," in BMH, pp. 265-272;

   Recommended: Adam, VI; Connell, Vol. 1, pp. 55-239; Brown, Coming Christ.

F, JULY 18: From Pascha to Parousia I:
   Christmas and Epiphany
   Evolution and Theology of Advent

M, JULY 21: From Pascha to Parousia II:
   Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery
   Discussion of R. Brown, An Adult Christ at Christmas

UNIT IV: FROM PASCHA TO PERSONS

Reading for Unit IV –
   Required
   OFFS, pp. 171-214;
   Baldovin, "On Feasting the Saints" in BMH, pp. 375-383;
   McDonnell, "Marian Liturgical Tradition" in BMH, pp. 385-400;
   White, “Forgetting and Remembering,” in BMH, pp. 401-414;

   Recommended: Adam, 159-271

T, JULY 22: From Pascha to Persons I:
   Origins and Evolution of the Sanctorale

W, JULY 23: From Pascha to Persons II:
   Origins and Evolution of the Cult and Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary
   Mary and the Saints in the Christian (Byzantine) East

Th, JULY 24: From Pascha to Persons III:
Reformation Critique of the *Sanctorale*
Current Roman Reform; Ecumenical Dialogue and Convergence
Models of Holiness Today
The Liturgical Year – Where do we go from here?
**Reading:** Baldovin, “The Liturgical Year: Calendar for a Just Community,” in Johnson, pp. 429-444.

**F, JULY 25:** The Liturgical Year: Where do we go from here?

**Take-Home Exam 3 due!**