

LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

Four Catholic Bishops in the state of Indiana have agreed on a common program of theology courses, professional skills workshops, and spiritual formation leading to the possibility of deputation as a “lay ecclesial minister.” The theology courses and the professional workshops may be taken for credit at Saint Joseph’s College toward a degree in Lay Ecclesial Ministry. Students interested in this major simply follow all of the directives in this *Catalog* from admissions through to application for degree, **but special permission from the Chair of the Religion Department is needed prior to enrollment in this major or minor.**

MAJOR IN LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY (36 credits)

REQUIRED: 14 courses (27 credits)

101 Intro Old Testament	202 Christology	303 PSW: Law
102 Intro New Testament	203 Ecclesiology	401 Spirituality
103 Word of God	204 PSW: Ministry	402 Moral Theology
104 PSW: Communication	301 Liturgy	403 PSW: Leadership
201 The Trinity	302 Sacraments	

Choose 9 credits from Lay Ecclesial Ministry (ELM) or Religion (REL) courses

MINOR IN LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY

REQUIRED: 10 courses (20 credits)

101 Intro Old Testament	201 The Trinity	301 Liturgy	401 Spirituality
102 Intro New Testament	202 Christology	302 Sacraments	402 Moral Theology
103 Word of God	203 Ecclesiology		

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

101. Introduction to the Old Testament 2 credits

An introductory study of the processes and faith struggles that gave rise to the Old Testament. Students will read major portions of the Old Testament to understand them both in their own context and also in the context of the Christian faith.

102. Introduction to the New Testament 2 credits

An introductory study of the processes and faith struggles that gave rise to the New Testament. Students will read most of the New Testament, attending to the chronological development of this primary faith document of the Church.

103. The Word of God in Faith, Theology, and Ministry 2 credits

A theological study of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Students will work with both Testaments in applying the tools and methods the Church employs to interpret texts and to deepen its understanding of revelation. Assignments and projects will deal with practical applications to liturgy and religious education.

104. Professional Skills Workshops: Communication 2 credits

Four day-long workshops covering professional skills needed by lay ministers: listening, ministerial relationships, diversity, and group dynamics.

- 201. The Trinity** **2 credits**
The theology of the Trinity as a personal communion of love. How this communion is experienced by Christians in the world as the creative activity of God the Father, the redeeming activity of God the Son, and the sanctifying activity of God the Holy Spirit.
- 202. Christology** **2 credits**
An introduction to the theology of the Church's doctrine about Jesus Christ in the light of Christian faith, practice, and worship. Special emphasis will be given to how the Church reflects systematically on the person, being, and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.
- 203. Ecclesiology** **2 credits**
An introduction to the biblical, magisterial, and theological foundations of the nature and mission of the Church. Special attention will be given to the major moments of the Church's historical development, as well as to its variety of forms and expressions.
- 204. Professional Skills Workshops: Ministry** **2 credits**
Four day-long workshops covering professional skills needed by lay ministers: recognizing and making productive use of the talents of others, working with volunteers, intervention skills, and supervision skills.
- 301. Liturgy** **2 credits**
An introduction to the general principles of liturgical celebration, the primacy of the Lord's Day and the liturgical year, and the various forms of liturgical prayer.
- 302. Sacraments** **2 credits**
A study of the Sacraments of the Church, their historical development and theology, with an overview of the Rites books and how to use them.
- 303. Professional Skills Workshops: Law** **1 credit**
Two day-long workshops covering professional skills needed by lay ministers: canon law, civil law, and the authority levels of various Church documents.
- 355. Independent Study** **1-3 credits**
An individual or small group study of a theological or pastoral topic, sponsored by a full-time member of the SJC religion faculty, and lasting at least one semester. Faculty approval and special form required.
- 401. Spirituality** **2 credits**
A study of the key figures in the historical development of Christian spirituality and of the impact of culture and society on forms and styles of prayer.
- 402. Moral Theology** **2 credits**
A study of the nature and process of moral decision making and the principles derived from the Catholic Faith that would be involved in such moral decision making.
- 403. Professional Skills Workshops: Leadership** **2 credits**
Four day-long workshops covering professional skills needed by lay ministers: goal setting, planning, styles and models of leadership, conflict resolution, and team building.
- 490. Internship** **1-3 credits**
Engagement in a semester-long project in a parish under the supervision of an experienced pastor and ELM staff. Special form and fee required.