

The Wethersfield Institute Presents the Stillman Lecture Series at the Basilica



**Thursday,
November 20, 2025**

**6:00pm: Vespers sung
by the St. Francis de
Sales Seminary schola
(optional)**

6:30pm: Talk

**Refreshments and
Q&A
to follow in the
Undercroft**

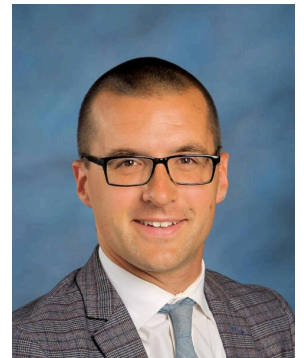
Detail of St. Josaphat panel in St. Josaphat Basilica

Rupture or Reform?: From Trent to Vatican II

The relationship between “Tridentine/traditional” versus “Vatican II” Catholicism has grown increasingly fraught in the last decade. Dr. Eric DeMeuse’s lecture will explore the historical roots of this tension from Trent to Vatican II and examine:

- What does the authority of the Church entail?
- How should the Church worship in her liturgy?
- How should the Church relate to the modern state?

Eric J. DeMeuse, PhD, is the headmaster of Chesterton Academy of Milwaukee where he has taught theology for seven years. He received a PhD in theology from Marquette University, a masters in theology from Villanova University, and a bachelors degree in history from Hillsdale College. He recently published a book with Oxford University Press entitled *Unity and Catholicity in Christ: The Ecclesiology of Francisco Suárez, SJ*, (2022) and has published numerous articles and book chapters on ecclesiology and on Catholicism between Trent and Vatican II with Brill, Oxford, Routledge, and The Journal of Theological Studies, among others. He lives in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, with his wife and six children.



For more information and to sign up for event notifications, visit our website www.wethersfieldinstitute.org



**Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. 6th St,
Milwaukee, WI 53215**

**2025 Stillman Lectures on
the Ecumenical Councils of
the Catholic Church**

The Wethersfield Institute Presents the Stillman Lecture Series at the Basilica



The Wethersfield Institute promotes the faithful retrieval and creative renewal of the Catholic cultural and intellectual tradition for the life of the Church in the Third Millennium. Founded in 1984 by conservator and philanthropist Chauncey Devereux Stillman, the Institute is the culmination of a life spent exploring and supporting aesthetic, agricultural, and broadly Catholic causes.

2024 was a year of renewal for the Wethersfield Institute as the locus of our activities (having moved from New York) are now centered in Milwaukee and our mission was broadened so that we seek not only to understand the cultural and intellectual dimensions of Catholic faith and practice, but also to nurture and be a catalyst for Catholic cultural endeavors and institutions, new and old.

2026 Plans

- Three Stillman lectures at the Basilica - beginning our two year series on the Rites of the Catholic Church - concluding with a Byzantine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Josaphat celebrated at the Basilica of St. Josaphat on November 12th
- The Church and the Land: A Practical Symposium in collaboration with St. Irenaeus Institute and Catholic Ecology Center to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day
- Commissioning new Liturgical Music to commemorate the 2000th anniversary of significant events in the life of Jesus Christ
- Christopher Dawson Seminar and Conference seeking ways patrons might develop Catholic Culture

Upcoming Wethersfield Institute Events:

Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 7pm - Panel discussion to conclude the 2025 Stillman Lecture Series on the Church's Ecumenical Councils. Join us at the **Italian Community Center** for a reception and panel discussion moderated by Dr. Matthew Levering with all four of the 2025 Stillman Lecture speakers. Come with your burning questions about all of the Church's Ecumenical Councils, to hear the panelists go more in-depth on the topic, and to enjoy fellowship with those of similar intellectual curiosity.

Dr. Matthew Levering, Editor of the published lectures, will write an introductory essay for the published lectures.

2026 & 2027 Stillman Lecture Series:

Six Rites of the Catholic Church

We seek to explore 1) the heart of worship across the six Rites of the Catholic Church and how we are all participating in the same heavenly liturgy so that we can participate more fully if we encounter a liturgy other than our own and 2) the historical, cultural, and theological roots leading to the differences between liturgies.

- Alexandrian - Ethiopian/Eritrean & Coptic
- Antiochian - East Syriac (Syro Malankar/Chaldean)
- Antiochian - West Syriac (Syro Malabar/Maronite)
- Byzantine
- Armenian
- Latin



Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. 6th St,
Milwaukee, WI 53215

For more information and to sign up
for event notifications, please visit
our website
www.wethersfieldinstitute.org