**Becky Walker**

**Loyola University Maryland**

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**Education**

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, PhD Historical Theology, 2018

Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, Certificate in University Teaching Skills, 2020

University of Dallas, Irving, TX, MA Theology, 2012

Texas Woman’s University, Dallas, TX, MS Physical Therapy, 2000

Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX, BS Biology, 1993

**University Teaching Experience**

Assistant Teaching Professor, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, Fall 2022–present

Instructor, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, Fall 2021–Spring 2022; Fall 2019; Fall 2016–Spring 2018

Instructor, University of Dallas, Irving, TX, Summer 2020 and Fall 2012–Spring 2013

Instructor, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, MO, Fall 2019–Spring 2020

**Courses Taught:**

American Feminist Theologies, Christian Theology and World Religions, Commenting on Scripture from Philo to Facebook, Health and Healing in Early Christianity, Immigration and Catholic Social Teaching, New Testament Greek, Theological Foundations, Theology Matters, Understanding the Bible, Women in the Bible

**Published Books:**

*Almsgiving as the Essential Virtue: A Study of John Chrysostom’s Homilies*.Vigiliae

Christianae Supplements 183. Leiden: Brill, 2024.

**Published Papers:**

“From Deliverance to Deification: The Role of Almsgiving in John Chrysostom’s Soteriology,” In *Fresh Perspectives on St. John Chrysostom as an Exegete*, edited by Athanasios Despotis, Michael Azar, and James Buchanan Wallace, 163–184. Leiden: Brill, 2025.

“The Salvific Effects of Almsgiving and the Moral Status of the Poor in Talmudic Judaism and Late Antique Christianity.” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 27.1 (2020): 1–21.

“The Lockean Influence on Newman’s Epistemology: An Historical Analysis Describing Newman’s Engagement with Locke’s Ideas.” *Irish Theological Quarterly* 84.1 (2019): 77–91.

**Works in Progress**

“‘This Place Is the Mount of Olives!’: John Chrysostom’s Figural and Rhetorical Exegesis in His Homilies on Matthew,” Revised and re-submitted to *Journal of Early Christian Studies* in August 2025

*Union, Appropriation, and Becoming Like God: Concepts of Deification in Gregory of Nyssa, Cyril of Alexandria, and John Chrysostom*, draft proposal written; working on first chapter

**Book Reviews**

Review of Blake Leyerle, *Christians at Home: John Chrysostom and Domestic Rituals in Fourth-Century Antioch* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2024) forthcoming in *Journal of Late Antiquity* 18.2 (2025): 475–477.

Review of Daniel Caner, The *Rich and the Pure: Philanthropy and the Making of Christian Society in Early Byzantium* (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2021) in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 30.2 (2022): 309–311.

Review of Peter Brown, *The Ransom of the Soul: Afterlife and Wealth in Early Western Christianity* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015) in *Reading Religion*, July 2018.

**Teaching and Research Interests**

History of Early Christianity

Reception Histories of the Bible

Intersections of Catholic Theology and Healthcare

Comparative Theology, especially Judaism and Christianity

**Service Experience (all at Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD)**

Mission Priority Examen Committee Member, Fall 2025–present

Interfaith Advisory Board Member, January 2025–present

Catholic Studies Advisory Board Member, Fall 2024–present

Exploratory Advisor, Fall 2024–present

Faculty Moderator of *Fiat* (Catholic Women’s Student Club), February 2024–present

Member of Interdisciplinary TH/PL Ethics Minor Subcommittee, October 2023–present

First-Year Student Advisor, Fall 2023–Summer 2024; Summer 2025–present

Theta Alpha Kappa Moderator, Spring 2023–present

Member of Comparative Theology Subcommittee, October 2023–May 2024

**Other Research Experience**

Research Assistant Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO

Conducted research for Elizabeth Block on Pope Francis’ View of Conscience, Spring 2016

Conducted research for Mary Dunn on portrayal of Native American Women in *The Jesuit Relations*, Fall 2014–Spring 2015

Assisted Matthew Thiessen with creation of database of rabbinic references to Hebrew Scriptures, Fall 2013–Spring 2014

**Other Professional Experience**

Physical Therapist, Dallas, TX and St. Louis, MO, 2000–2013, 2018–2019, 2021

Religion Teacher, Trinity Catholic High School, St. Louis, MO, 2020–2021

Missionary to Varna, Bulgaria, Glenwood Church of Christ, Tyler, TX, 1995–1997

**Honors and Awards**

Center for the Humanities Summer Study Grant Recipient, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, Summer 2025

Course Development Grant Recipient, Center for Community, Service, and Justice, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, Spring 2025

Collegium Grant Recipient, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, Summer 2024

Community Engaged Learning and Service (CELS) Grant Recipient, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, Summer 2024

Faculty Fellow for Service-Learning Seminar, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD, Spring 2023

Mentored Teaching Assistantship, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, 2017–2018

Graduate Fellowship, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, 2013–2017

Braniff Scholarship, University of Dallas, Irving, TX, 2008–2012

Yellow Rose Scholarship, Texas Woman’s University, Dallas, TX, 1998–1999

Christian Education Scholarship, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX, 1990–1993

**Conference Presentations:**

**“**‘This Place Is the Mount of Olives!’: The Symbolism of Oil in John Chrysostom’s Exegetical Homilies,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2024

“Picturing the Poor in the Pages of Scripture: A Sample from John Chrysostom’s Homilies on Matthew,” North American Patristics Society Annual meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2024

“‘All Must Reach the Same Height’: The History, Development, and Afterlife of John Chrysostom’s Interpretation of the Parable of the Ten Virgins,” Symposium for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, St. Louis, MO, June 2023

“‘Almsgiving Makes One Like God’: John Chrysostom’s Employment of the Ethical and Sacramental Approaches to Deification,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2022

“Models of Repentance: A Comparison between John Chrysostom’s *Ad Theodorum Lapsum I* and Jerome’s *Ad Oceanum* (*Ep.* 77),” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2022

**“**‘Almsgiving Makes One Like God’: Almsgiving’s Role in the Acquisition of Virtue According to John Chrysostom,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2021

“Patronage of the Poor: Philanthropic Religious Competition in Late Fourth-Century Antioch,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2019

“‘Almsgiving Delivers from Death’: John Chrysostom’s Connection of the Narratives of Tobit and Tabitha,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2018

“More than One Kind of Monk: Reconciling Chrysostom’s Seemingly Contradictory Statements on Monasticism in His Antiochene Works,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2018

“Almsgiving Is Better than Virginity: John Chrysostom’s Interpretation of Matthew 25:1–13,” Central States Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Columbia, MO, March 2018

“The Different Aims of Origen’s *Epinoiai* and Ephrem’s Divine Names,” Thomas H. Olbricht Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2017

“Chrysostom’s Views on Post-Baptismal Sin: Was He Soft on Sinners?” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2017

“From Tobit to Tabitha: Cyprian’s and John Chrysostom’s Understanding of ‘Almsgiving

Delivers from Death,’” Central States Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Columbia, MO, March 2017

“Jewish and Christian Reception of Proverbs 10:2 and 11:4: ‘*Tsedaqa* Delivers from Death,’” Midwest AAR, Muncie, IN, March 2017

“Chrysostom As Monk and Pastor: How These Roles Influenced His View of Almsgiving,” Midwest AAR, Muncie, IN, March 2017

“Gregory of Nyssa’s Interpretation of 2 Cor. 5.21 in His Works against Eunomius: The Ideas of Identification and Exchange,” Central States Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, March 2016

“The Chair of Peter in Cyprian and Optatus: The Relevance of Their Insights for Contemporary Debates on the Papal Ministry,” Ecumenical Conference sponsored by Saint Louis University and St. Irenaeus Orthodox Theological Institute, St. Louis, MO, October 2015

**Memberships and Affiliations:**

Society of Biblical Literature

North American Patristics Society

**Languages**

Reading knowledge: Classical Greek, Classical Latin, German, French, Ancient Syriac, Biblical Hebrew

Conversational knowledge in reading and speaking: Bulgarian

**Church and Community Service**

Invited speaker at Lenten Lecture Series, Basilica of the Assumption, Baltimore, MD, March 2025

Invited speaker at Cathedral Colloquium, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore, MD, October 2024

Lector, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore, MD, January 2023–present

Small-group Facilitator, Usher, Lector, and Extraordinary Minister of Communion, St. Francis Xavier College Church, St. Louis, MO, Fall 2013–Summer 2022

Member of Social Justice Commission, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, St. Louis, MO, Fall 2014–Spring 2016

Member of Education Committee, Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and Sunday School Teacher, St. Ann Parish, Coppell, TX, 2007–2013