

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish
13 North St., Geneseo, NY



Sacraments: Channels of God's Grace – Sacraments of Initiation II

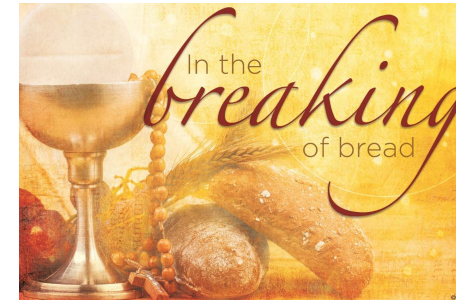
Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff
March 4, 2020

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Opening Prayer



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Review

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1131- "The Sacraments are **efficacious signs** of grace, **instituted by Christ** and **entrusted to the Church**, by which divine life is **dispensed** to us."
- Baltimore Catechism - "A sacrament is an **outward sign instituted** by Christ to give **grace**."
- Sacrament as gift

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Review

- Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism & Confirmation
- Questions from last evaluation
 - Why did the age for Confirmation change? It used to be happen at much younger age.
 - Why has it become such a process?

My previous presentations in this series on the sacraments are available online at:

www.renewaloffaith.org/sacramentsvideo

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Review – Sacraments as Mystery

- “The word *sacrament* also has its origins in the Greek term for “mystery,” *mysterion*. The sense of the term *mystery* is something **unfathomable**, something so **extraordinary** and **overwhelming** that we can **never fully comprehend it**. (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 11)
- “The celebration of the sacraments contains the church’s agreed-upon and time-tested signs, symbols, gestures, words, and the context in which these are enacted, all of which comprise what sacraments are and do. **Words will always fail to describe adequately and fully** what sacraments are and do.” (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 2)

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Sacraments as Mystery

Refrain for the hymn “Look Beyond”

Look beyond the bread you eat;
See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink;
See his love poured out as blood.

1969, 1979, Damean Music.
“Look Beyond”, #324 in *Breaking Bread with Daily Mass Propers*,
Portland: Oregon Catholic Press. 2020.

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What does the word
“Eucharist”
mean?

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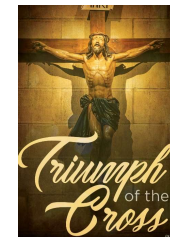


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Names for the Eucharist

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1328 – 1332


- The word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving”
- Lord’s Supper
- Breaking of the Bread
- Holy Communion
- Holy Sacrifice



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What does the word "Transubstantiation" mean?

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How is the Eucharist a Sacrament of Initiation?

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How is the Eucharist a Sacrament of Initiation?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1322
 "The holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation."

The Eucharist is the **source** and **summit** of the Christian life (*Lumen Gentium, 11*)

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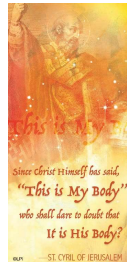
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Eucharist in the Bible
 New Testament


Jesus **instituted** the Eucharist at the Last Supper with **his** words,

"this **is** my body...this cup **is** the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."

Matthew 26:26-28
 Mark 14:22-24
 Luke 22:14-20
 Cf. I Corinthians 11:23-25



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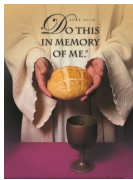
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Eucharist in the Bible New Testament


And He told us to continue to celebrate it with his words,

"Do this in memory of me."

Luke 22:19
cf. I Corinthians 11:25



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Eucharist in the Bible-New Testament cont'd

The Bread of Life Discourse – John chapter 6

- "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever **eats this bread will live forever**; and the bread that I will give **is my flesh** for the life of the world." (John 6:51)
- "Amen, amen, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood**, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is **true food**, and my blood is **true drink**." (John 6:53-55)
- "Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, **whoever eats this bread will live forever**." (John 6:58b)

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The Eucharist and Real Presence

How can one hear these words and not believe in the Real Presence **instituted by Jesus**?


Yet that is what they do

- "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" (John 6:60b)
- "As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of the life and no longer accompanied him." (John 6:66)

Peter's Response?

- "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68b)


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Recent studies show many Catholics don't believe it is Jesus.

I HAVE NO DOUBT IT IS JESUS.



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Old Testament Prefigures the Eucharist

- Manna in the desert
 - Exodus 16
 - Bread as a basic necessity for life
- Wine
 - Wine was used during the Passover meal as a symbol of freedom (redemption) from slavery in Egypt
 - It symbolizes our redemption from sin
 - It also symbolizes John 15 where Jesus says He is the vine and we are the branches. (The wine we use at Mass must come from grape vines – *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 322, *Code of Canon Law*, 924, Luke 22:18)

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“Do This in Memory of Me”

- Passover Meal
 - Reading for Holy Thursday (Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14) ends with
 - “This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.”
 - Memorializes God setting his people free from Egypt
- It was no coincidence Jesus Crucifixion came at the time of the Passover
 - The Eucharist memorializes Jesus setting us free from our sins

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Eucharist – Historical Development

- The Last Supper was the first celebration of the Eucharist
- Luke 24:13-35 – The Road to Emmaus – Jesus was recognized in the breaking of the Bread
- The early church immediately started gathering to break bread - Acts 2:42-46

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Eucharist – Historical Development (cont'd)

- Initially, the Eucharist was celebrated privately in homes due to persecution
- In his *First Apology*, Justin Martyr shows us the same structure to Mass as we have today (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1345)
- Edict of Milan - The legalization of Christianity led to celebrating the Eucharist in public
- Receiving Communion in the hand vs. on the tongue (c. 900 A.D.)



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Historical Development - Participation in the Mass During The Scholastic Period

"But it can also be said that for a great many of the faithful and less well educated, this era was not a high point in their participation in the liturgy or even in their comprehension of what was occurring, since Latin was no longer universally known. Even so, the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Mass, was a source of religious and social cohesion." (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 94)

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Historical Development - Participation in the Mass During The Scholastic Period cont'd

"With regard to the Eucharist, called the "sacrament of sacraments" by many authors, the celebration was done by the priest on behalf of those in attendance ...However, in communities of well-educated monks and mendicants, their participation in the liturgy influenced their understanding of God, the incarnation, and the sacraments." (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 95)

Contrast to today
Eucharistic Prayer III – "at whose command we celebrate these mysteries"

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Historical Development - Participation in the Mass in the 20th Century

"The twentieth-century liturgical movement was undoubtedly the main stimulus within the church for the contemporary renewal of the sacramental practice and a revised understanding of the dynamism of the sacramental action. The work of liturgical scholars in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was responsible for a reawakening of the importance and centrality of liturgy as public worship that, by its nature, required the active participation of all participants." (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 130).

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What is the primary purpose of Mass?

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Eucharist – The Rite

- What is the primary purpose of Mass?
 - To praise God
- Does that mean we don't get anything out of Mass?
 - We receive the Word of God and the Eucharist
 - As Eucharistic Prayer III says,

“grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, **may become one body, one spirit in Christ.**”

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Eucharist – The Rite

Do you ever feel like you don't get much, or anything, out of coming to Mass? Here are four tips:

1. It helps to know not just what we do but why.
2. The word “amen” means “Yes” or “I believe”. Think about what you are saying “amen” to, especially when you receive Communion.
3. You get more out of something when you put more into it. Come a few minutes early for Mass to pray and ask God to help you let go of other things and focus on the Mass.
4. Come every week! How do you expect to get much of it if you just come when it is convenient?

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Question from Last Evaluation

- “Can you address the attitude of many who think Mass on Sunday is a choice – so they come sometimes (no real reason keeping them) – is weekly Mass a Church rule or God's rule?”
 - Third Commandment – Keep the Sabbath Holy
 - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/the-lord-s-day.html>
 - Dies Domini - http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/1998/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_05071998_dies-domini.html
 - Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2168-2195

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Question on Sunday Obligation cont'd

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2180


“The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: “**On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.**” “The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2181

“The Sunday Eucharist is the **foundation** and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are **obliged** to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless **excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants)** or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.”


Cf. Code of Canon Law, 1245-1248

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The Things We Use in the Eucharist
Bread and Wine
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1333-1336)

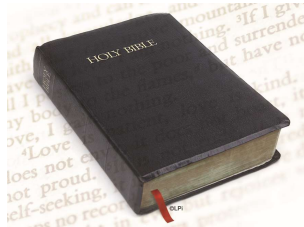


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The Things We Use in the Eucharist
God's Word from the Bible



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Words From the Bible in the Eucharist

- Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy). We now say "Lord God of hosts" which is not everyday language for us. (we used to say, "God of power and might") While it may not be common wording to us, we find it or similar verses 99 times in the New American Bible Revised Edition. It was changed in the current translations at Mass to match its biblical origins.

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Words From the Bible in the Eucharist

- Eucharistic Prayer 3 uses, "For from the rising of the sun to its setting" as found in verses such as Malachi 1:11 and Psalm 113:3
- Memorial Acclamation – "When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again." – 1 Corinthians 11:26
- "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you" – John 14:27
- "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world" – John 1:29b
- "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed" is based on the words of the Centurion in Matthew 8:8 and Luke 7:6

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Effects of the Eucharist

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1322 "The holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation."
- Venial Sins forgiven
- Ongoing spiritual nourishment
 - Become what we eat
 - Transformed to become what we receive
 - Eucharistic Prayer III – that WE may become the Body and Blood

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How Often Can We Receive the Eucharist?

- Baptism and Confirmation are received once in a lifetime
- Is the Eucharist repeatable? Absolutely!
 - Should receive at least weekly
 - Daily Mass
 - Can it be received more than once in the same day?

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Roles in the Celebration of the Eucharist

- The individual's role centers on what I have already said about "active participation".
- Why must a priest* preside?
 - A priest is one who offers sacrifice
 - The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

*all bishops are priests

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Who Can Receive the Eucharist?

- Why can't everyone receive Holy Communion?
 - Baptism as the gateway to the Sacraments
 - Catholics vs. non-Catholics
 - The meaning of the word "Communion"
- One hour Fast and demeanor at Mass

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Who Can **Worthily** Receive the Eucharist?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1384-1387

- State of grace
 - "Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord **unworthily** will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person **should examine himself**, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

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Who Can **Worthily** Receive the Eucharist?

- Venial sins forgiven in celebrating the Eucharist (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1394*)

- "All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not **deadly**." (1 John 5:17)

- Lord, I am not worthy...

- Mortal sins need to be confessed before receiving Communion

- "Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has **anything** against you, leave your gift there at the altar, **go first** and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24)

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Ocular Communion and Adoration



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Adoration – Historical Development

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1379

"The tabernacle was first intended for the reservation of the Eucharist in a worthy place so that it could be brought to the sick and those absent, outside of Mass. As faith in the real presence of Christ in his Eucharist deepened, the Church became conscious of the meaning of silent adoration of the Lord present under the Eucharistic species. It is for this reason that the tabernacle should be located in an especially worthy place in the church and should be consecrated in such a way that it emphasizes and manifests the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament."

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Popes promoting frequent reception

"In 1742, Pope Benedict XIV decreed that the laity should be encouraged to receive communion frequently, a theme that is taken up forcefully in the early twentieth century (at least in theory) by Pope Pius X. He also decreed that when the laity received communion, they should do so from hosts consecrated at the same Mass at which they participated and not from those reserved in the tabernacle." (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 137).

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Who is the patron saint of the Eucharist?

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Who is the patron saint of the Eucharist?

- General
 - St. Michael is the guardian of the Eucharist
- First Communion
 - Bl. Imelda Lambertini (feast – May 13th) – Born in Bologna, she longed from a very early age to receive Communion. She died at the age of eleven following her First Communion.
 - St. Tarsicius (memorial – August 15th) – He was killed while taking the Eucharist to people in prison in Rome.

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"Homework"

- Reflect on your memory of your First Communion
- Can you begin to count how many times in your life you have received Communion?
- Do you have special memories of receiving Communion or time spent in Adoration?

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Future Schedule

- Series on the Sacraments
 - Fourth Session on Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30 pm
 - Fifth Session on Wednesday, May 6th at 6:30 pm

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See the treasure given to us in the Sacraments

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Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church. Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

Healy, Mary, Healing: Bringing the Gift of God's Mercy to the World. Our Sunday Visitor: Huntington, IN. 2015.

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Resources (cont'd)

Irwin, Rev. Kevin W., The Sacraments: Historical Foundations and Liturgical Theology. Paulist Press, New York. 2016.

Nutt, Roger W., General Principles of Sacramental Theology. The Catholic University of America Press: Washington, DC. 2017.

St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition. New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

USCCB, United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006.

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