

SACRAMENTS

We Share the Faith of a Community

Through him,
with him,
in him
in the unity
of the Holy Spirit
all glory and

Like family reunions, the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, gather Christians together to

remember and celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ, the faith that gives us our identity. In the stories, signs, rituals, and prayers of the sacraments, Jesus continues to act in our lives today.

Young people who are preparing for confirmation have shared the faith of a community since their baptisms. Members of the Christian community have believed for centuries and generations before us and will continue to believe when we doubt and question.

The Catholic community shares an active social life. The community hangs out together most regularly at Sunday eucharist when we gather, break bread, and share a cup of wine as Jesus asked. Jesus is really present with us in these signs of bread and wine that become his body and blood.

At Mass the community gathers around two tables. At the table of the word, we nourish our memory of

God's goodness to us and Jesus' vision for us in the gospels. Around the table of the eucharist, we share the body and blood of Christ. We pray with Jesus in the Eucharistic Prayer and give ourselves to God in love as he did.

In every Eucharistic Prayer, the celebrant retells and reenacts the story of the night before Jesus died. Jesus blessed and broke bread and gave it to his disciples as the sign of his body which he gave for us. The priest retells and reenacts how Jesus did the same with a cup of wine and gave it to his friends as a sign of his lifeblood poured out for us. When we share the bread and drink the cup, we proclaim our faith in Jesus' self-



What photos do you treasure and show often to others? What have you learned about who you are from going to family reunions?

giving death and life-giving resurrection.

We gather, tell Jesus' story, eat the bread, and drink the wine because Jesus commanded, "Do this to remember me." We do this often in order to recognize and become who we are—the body of Christ in our world.

honor is yours
almighty Father
forever and ever.
Amen.



Sacraments Make

INITIATION

Three sacraments draw Christians into the mystery of Jesus' death, resurrection, and sending of his Spirit. These three sacraments initiate new Christians into faith in Jesus Christ, his Father and Spirit, and into the life of the Christian community, the Church.

Each of these sacraments has an action sign in which the Christian participates. In baptism the Church bathes the new Christian in the waters of Jesus' new risen life. By laying on hands and anointing with oil in confirmation, the bishop anoints and seals us with the same Spirit Jesus sent upon his disciples. At eucharist each Christian gathers with the community to eat the bread and drink the cup which Jesus made signs of his love.

In **baptism** a priest or deacon washes the new Christian as a sign of dying and rising with Jesus Christ and being born anew as a child of God. This sacrament consecrates the Christian to worship God with Jesus and to live and spread his good news. The priest or deacon calls each Christian by name and says what words?

_____, _____

_____.



In **confirmation** a bishop or priest extends hands over all who will be confirmed and prays that they receive the gifts of the Spirit. The bishop or priest calls each Christian by name, signs each with a cross on the forehead with oil, and says what words?

_____, _____

_____.



At **eucharist** we share the bread and wine Jesus made signs of his love for us. Jesus gave his followers these signs at the Last Supper on the night before he died. They are Jesus' body and blood, which he shares with us. Jesus says of the bread, "Take, eat, this is my body." He says of the cup of wine, "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many." To affirm our faith that we receive the body and blood of Christ, we say: _____.



Our Faith Visible

HEALING

In the sacrament of penance and the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, Jesus continues his healing actions in the Christian community.



In **reconciliation** we confess our sins, express our sorrow for our unloving actions, and agree to make up for the hurt or damage we have done. The priest holds his hands over us and prays, “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”



In the **anointing of the sick** the Christian community gathers to pray for the sick. A priest anoints sick and elderly people with oil on their palms and forehead. The priest prays, “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.”

Create a Sacrament Lifeline

The Church’s seven sacraments celebrate special life moments—birth, family meals, marriage, forgiveness, sickness, commitment to serve. In the actions the sacraments celebrate, Jesus still acts among us. Each sacrament has an action sign in which we can participate.

◆ **Create your own sacrament lifeline on this page. Identify when you have celebrated these sacraments and when others you know have celebrated them. Write names, dates, and special memories.**

SERVICE

In the sacraments of marriage and holy orders the Church celebrates the upbuilding of the Christian community.



In **marriage** a man and a woman pledge their love for each other and vow that each will be faithful to the other all their lives together. Their lasting love for each other makes Christian love visible among us—in their families, in the whole community.



In **holy orders** the Christian community ordains ministers to serve the people of God, preach the gospel, and celebrate the sacraments. A bishop lays hands on a priest’s head and anoints his hands with oil. Deacons, priests, and bishops serve the Church and its unity.

Marriage



Holy Orders



Anointing of the sick



We Become the Body of Christ

Liturgy is the Church's public prayer. Our life of public prayer as Catholic Christians revolves around the sacraments with the Eucharist at the center. The word *eucharist* in Greek means to *give thanks*.

Eucharist is the great thanksgiving prayer of the Christian community. In this sacrament Christians celebrate the faith we profess and live. We celebrate the whole history of God's creative love from creation, to Jesus Christ, to this moment when we join the community in giving thanks and praying to become one body.

Eucharist calls Christians to become the sacrament we celebrate. We share the body of Christ in order to become the body of Christ in the world. Each Eucharistic Prayer is a great thanksgiving in which we pray to become like Jesus, an everlasting gift to God and our neighbor.

● Explore the Eucharistic Prayer by completing in your own words on this page the three main parts of the prayer.

**Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God for all God has done in
our history and our lives.**

**Remember the night before Jesus died
when he gathered us together.**

**May we become one body,
one spirit in Christ.**

Go in peace to love and serve.

