

THE SACRAMENTS

A Very Brief Introduction

SEVEN SACRAMENTS

Initiation

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist (Holy Communion)

Healing

4. Reconciliation (Confession, Penance)
5. Anointing of the Sick (Healing)

Vocation or Service

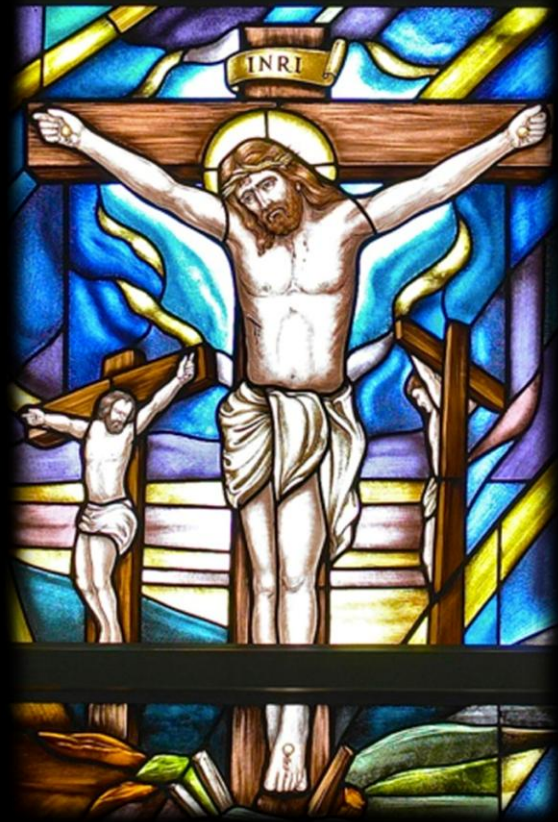
6. Marriage
7. Holy Orders



Baptism



Confirmation



Eucharist

DEFINITIONS OF SACRAMENT

“An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.”
(Journey of Faith, C1)

“The sacraments are perceptible signs (words and actions) accessible to our human nature.” *(CCC, 1084)*

“The sacraments, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, are efficacious signs of grace perceptible to the senses.” *(Compendium, 224)*

A SIMPLE DEFINITION
OF SACRAMENT

*A physical sign that Jesus uses to
communicate his love and saving
actions to us.*

PHYSICAL SIGNS

Involve our human senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell)

Also called “outward” or “perceptible” signs

Relate to our physical human nature, which Jesus shared

A real, physical way that Christ can touch us

Physical signs also include the specific words that are said in administering each sacrament

Sacrament

Physical Sign

Baptism

Pouring of water

Confirmation

Laying on of hands, anointing with
oil

Eucharist

Bread & wine

Penance/Reconciliation

Contrition, confession, satisfaction

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing with oil, laying on of
hands

Marriage

Mutual consent to live together as
husband & wife

Holy Orders

Laying on of hands

INSTITUTED BY CHRIST

Baptism – John 3: 5

Confirmation – John 20: 22; Acts 1: 4-5

Eucharist – Luke 22: 19

Penance/Reconciliation – John 20: 23

Anointing of the Sick – James 5: 14-15

Marriage – Mark 10: 6-9

Holy Orders – Acts 14: 23

CHRIST'S ACTION

As the water poured by the priest *symbolizes* the washing away of original sin,
Christ's action *really does* wash away original sin.

The bread and wine are a visible *sign* of the Body and Blood of Christ as
Christ acts through the priest to transform them into the *real* Body and
Blood of Christ.

Sacraments are **PHYSICAL SIGNS** that *really do* what they symbolize.

The effectiveness of the sacraments does not depend on the personal holiness
of the minister but on the **action of Christ**.

THE MINISTER

Baptism: Priest or deacon (or anyone, in an emergency)

Confirmation: Bishop or his delegate (priest or abbot)

Eucharist: Priest

Reconciliation: Priest

Anointing: Priest

Marriage: Bride and Groom

Holy Orders: Bishop

In each case, **Christ acts** through the minister

GRACE

Sacramental grace is the grace of the Holy Spirit which is given by Christ ... It helps the faithful in their journey toward holiness and so assists the Church as well to grow in charity and in her witness to the world. (*Compendium*, 231)

Grace is the free and undeserved favour of God.

Grace helps us respond to God, to follow him, gives us the ability to be holy, strengthens us in faith.

SACRAMENTAL CHARACTER

Some sacraments leave a **permanent** mark on the soul.

Sacramental character is *a seal* bestowed by the sacraments of **Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders**. It is *a promise* and *a guarantee of divine protection*. We are sealed to participate in the priesthood of Christ and are set apart for divine worship and the service of the Church.

One can only receive these 3 sacraments once.

BAPTISM

- Sacrament of initiation
- Jesus gives us His example
 - Performed only once
- Specific words and intentions
 - Washes away original sin
 - Adoption into God's family
- Death of old life and start of divine life within us



Thanks to Dan

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ANOTHER ESKIMO BAPTISM GONE BAD

CONFIRMATION

- Public acceptance of the creed
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit
 - Laying on of hands
 - Mark of the cross in oil
 - Strengthening faith
- Coming of age as a Christian

RECONCILIATION

- Forgiven by God and not by the priest but through him
- Confessing helps us develop humility & accountability for our sins
- True sense of forgiveness as well as unseen reality
 - Even the most beautiful garden needs weeding!
- The sacrament gives us strength to avoid future sin

HOLY COMMUNION HOLY EUCHARIST

- Under the guise of bread and wine
 - Real Presence
- Understanding and acceptance before receiving
 - Preparation to receive this sacrament
 - Life blood of the Church and liturgy
 - Life blood of Catholics
- It is good to 'long' for it during this RCIA journey
 - Its power does not rely on my 'feeling'
- Sacrament that renews, strengthens and heals

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

- ‘Last Rites’ in old movies
- Not confined to ‘death bed’ situations
 - Healing Power
 - Sins forgiven
- Amazing experiences!

MARRIAGE

- Bride and groom are the ministers
 - Vocational sacrament
- Family- the domestic Church
- Helping each other to holiness, sanctity and heaven!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY
ORDERS

There are 3 levels of Holy Order:

Bishop

Priest

Deacon

(Transitional)

(Permanent)

THE PRIESTHOOD WAS INSTITUTED BY CHRIST

First bishops were Jesus' Twelve Apostles

Jesus called them specially to follow Him

Jesus sent them out to preach and baptize (Matt. 10)

Jesus gave them the power to heal (Mark 6:1-3)

Jesus gave them the power to forgive sins (John 20:23)

Jesus gave them the power to preside at the Eucharist: "do this in
memory of me."

HOMEWORK

Pray for our priests who serve the Church
and provide us with the majority of the sacraments!

Pope Francis

Archbishop Richard Smith

Bishop Greg Bittman

Fr. Andrew

Fr. Jaya

Deacon Randy

Deacon Harrison

Vocations to the priesthood – that more young men will listen to and answer
God’s call to serve.

Vocations as Religious Sisters - that more women will listen to and answer God’s
call to serve.