

SUMMARY OF SACRAMENTS

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The Church embodies the mysteries of faith in art, architecture and music:

Sacraments are visible signs of invisible grace that assure us of God's presence. Sacraments are signs instituted by Christ whose rites are developed by the Church. These signs point to Christ and are human encounters with Christ. Just as the divine Son of God is incarnated as human, so the sacraments are incarnated signs. The Church uses sensate and palpable signs of water and oil, bread and wine, taste and smell, words and touch, seeing and hearing, postures and rituals, to signify the incarnated presence of Christ who is living among us.

Sacraments are milestones on our faith journey of life:

Sacraments are what God does for us during the ages and stages of our lives when we are in special need of the blessings and graces of Christ on the journey.

Sacraments can easily be categorized:

Sacraments of Initiation:

- **Baptism**
- **Confirmation**
- **Eucharist**

Sacraments of Healing:

- **Reconciliation**
- **Anointing of the Sick**

Sacraments of Service:

- **Matrimony**
- **Holy Orders**

Scripture and Rites of the Sacraments:

1) Baptism

Scripture:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Mt 28:19-20).

Rite:

Immersing the person in water or pouring water on the person's head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: “I baptize you in the name of Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

2) **Confirmation**

Scripture:

“Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:14-17).

Rite:

Anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism, together with the laying on of the minister’s hand and the words: “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you.”

3) **Eucharist**

Scripture:

Jesus said: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if any one eats of the bread, he will live for ever;...he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and...abides in me, and I in him.” (Jn 6:51, 54, 56)

Rite:

Wheat bread and grape wine, on which the blessing of the Holy Spirit is invoked and the priest pronounces the words of consecration spoken by Jesus during the Last Supper: “This is my body which will be given up for you.... This is the cup of my blood....” (Lk 22:7-20; Mt 26:26:17-29; Mk 14:12-25; 1 Cor 11:23-26).

4) **Reconciliation**

Scripture:

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week,” Jesus showed himself to his apostles. “He breathed on them, and said to them: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained’.” (Jn 20:19, 22-23).

Rite:

Three actions of the penitent and the priest’s absolution. The penitent’s acts are confession of sins, prayer of contrition, and penance of reparation. The priest’s words: “God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus, you reconciled the whole world to yourself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sin. Through the ministry of the Church, God give to you pardon and peace. I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

5) Anointing of the Sick

Scripture:

“Are there people sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the Church, and let the priests pray over them anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick persons, and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them.” (Jas 5:14-15).

Rite:

Laying on of hands followed by anointing the forehead and open palms of the hands of the sick person. Together with the anointing of the forehead and the words: “Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.” With the anointing of the palms of the hands: “May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up.”

6) Matrimony

Scripture:

In the letter to the Ephesians, it says: “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church.... This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the Church.” (Eph 5:25, 32). Christ is the Bridegroom and the Church his Bride. “the wedding-feast of the Lamb.” (Rev 19:7, 9). “Be married in the Lord.” (1 Cor 7:39).

Rite:

The consent of the couple who minister to each other through the public exchange of their vows in which they give themselves, each to the other, mutually and definitively, in order to live their marriage covenant as an intimate communion of life and love: “I do.”

7) Holy Orders

Scripture:

In the letter to Timothy, the author says: “I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands.” (2 Tim 1:6) Also, “If any one aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a noble task.” (1 Tim 3:1) To Titus the author says: “This is why I left you in Crete, that you amend what was defective, and appoint presbyters in every town, as I directed you.” (Titus 1:5).

Rite:

The ordained ministry is conferred and exercised in three degrees: Bishop, Priest, and Deacon. All degrees are conferred by the Bishop. The priesthood is conferred through the anointing of the hands with sacred chrism, the laying on of hands followed by a solemn prayer of consecration asking God to grant the graces of the Holy Spirit required for this ministry.