



Celebrating the Paschal Mystery

LITURGY AND THE SACRAMENTS

RCIA PRESENTATION BY MR. BRETT SMITH / JAN. 3, 2017

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Paschal Mystery-What is it?

Paschal:

- ▶ connected with The saving death, burial, resurrection, and glorification of Jesus



- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 25-27
- ▶ Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, ² by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain.³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures...
- ▶ ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ “For God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

The Paschal Mystery-What is it?

Mystery:

- ▶ “a reality that is both visible and hidden” (USCC, 167)
 - ▶ Jesus' saving death and resurrection are hidden to us now,
 - ▶ but they remain visible in the liturgy of the Church



The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb
from the Ghent Altarpiece
by Jan and Hubert Van Eyck

The Paschal Mystery, sacred liturgy, and the Sacraments

Liturgy:

- ▶ the Church's public celebration of the Paschal Mystery

Sacraments:

- ▶ the means by which we receive the grace of the Paschal Mystery

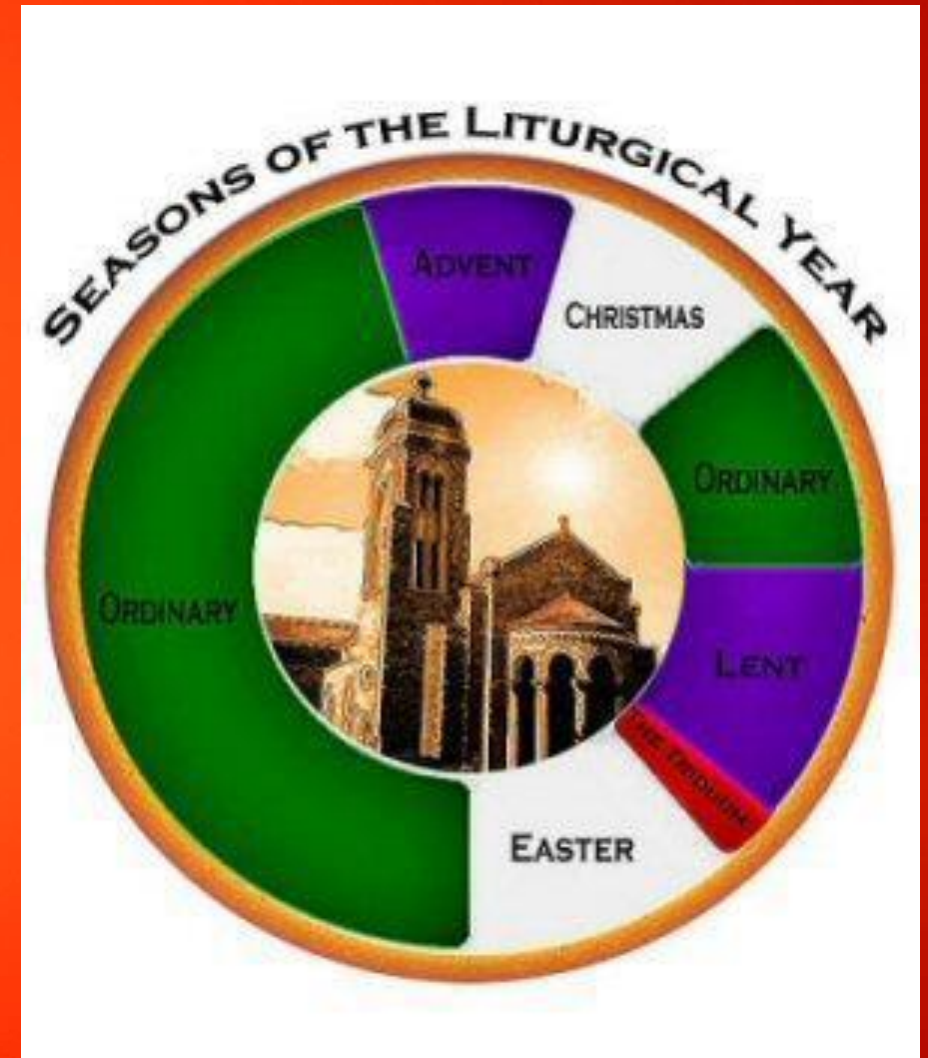
Liturgy

“a public act of worship by the faithful gathered together by the power of the Spirit under the authority of the bishop” (USCC, 170)

Liturgy

a public act of worship by the faithful

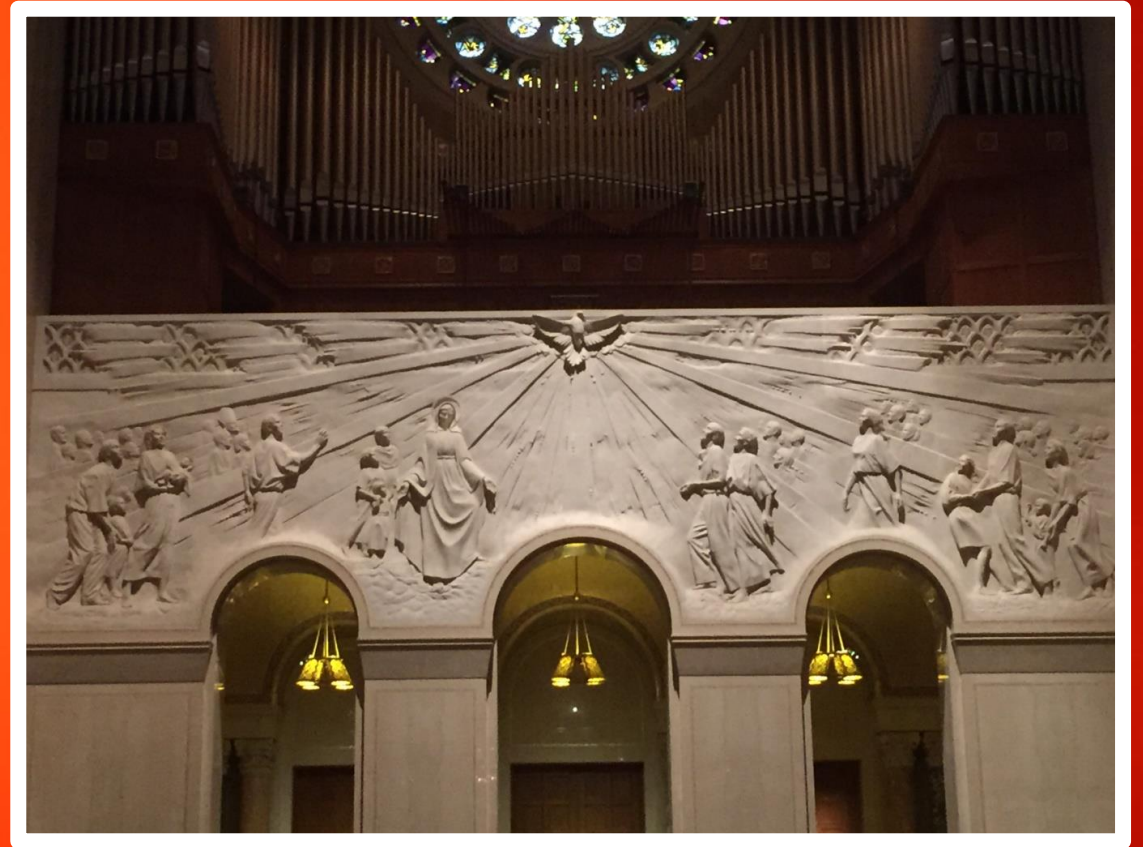
- ▶ Does include:
 - ▶ mass
 - ▶ the liturgical year
 - ▶ the cycle of saints
 - ▶ the Liturgy of the Hours
- ▶ Does not include:
 - ▶ private devotions, such as the Rosary, etc.



Liturgy

gathered together by the
power of the Spirit

- ▶ It is not that we bring something to God, but God brings us to bring something to Him



Liturgy

under the authority of the bishop

- ▶ “Let all follow the bishop, as Jesus Christ follows his Father, and the college of presbyters as the apostles; respect the deacons as you do God’s law. Let no one do anything concerning the Church in separation from the bishop.”

--Ignatius of Antioch (†AD 107) *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* 8, 1 (quoted in CCC 896)

Liturgy: Questions?



Sacraments

“The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.”

(CCC 1131; cf. 774 and USCC, 169)

Sacraments

efficacious signs of grace

- ▶ *ex opere operato* (see CCC 1128)
 - ▶ *ex opere*: from the work
 - ▶ *operato*: having been done
 - ▶ i.e., from the very fact that the work has been performed

- ▶ The person who has done the work is Christ
 - ▶ and Christ works through the celebrant of the sacrament
 - ▶ therefore, the effect does not depend on the holiness of the minister
- ▶ Conditions upon the recipient:
 - ▶ Faith (preceded by the faith of the Church)
 - ▶ Disposition to receive the grace

Sacraments

efficacious **signs** of grace

▶ form

certain words must be said

▶ matter

sacred action is performed



Sacraments

efficacious signs of **grace** (see USCC, 168)

- ▶ Grace is God's favor given through the death and resurrection of Jesus
- ▶ Grace is given freely through the Sacraments
- ▶ Grace enables us to accept grace freely (we provide nothing, but we are not forced)
- ▶ By grace we participate in God's life and are saved

Sacraments

instituted by Christ

- ▶ For the Sacraments that the New Testament does not portray Jesus instituting directly, we should infer that He did so because of their extremely early practice by His disciples who knew Him well.

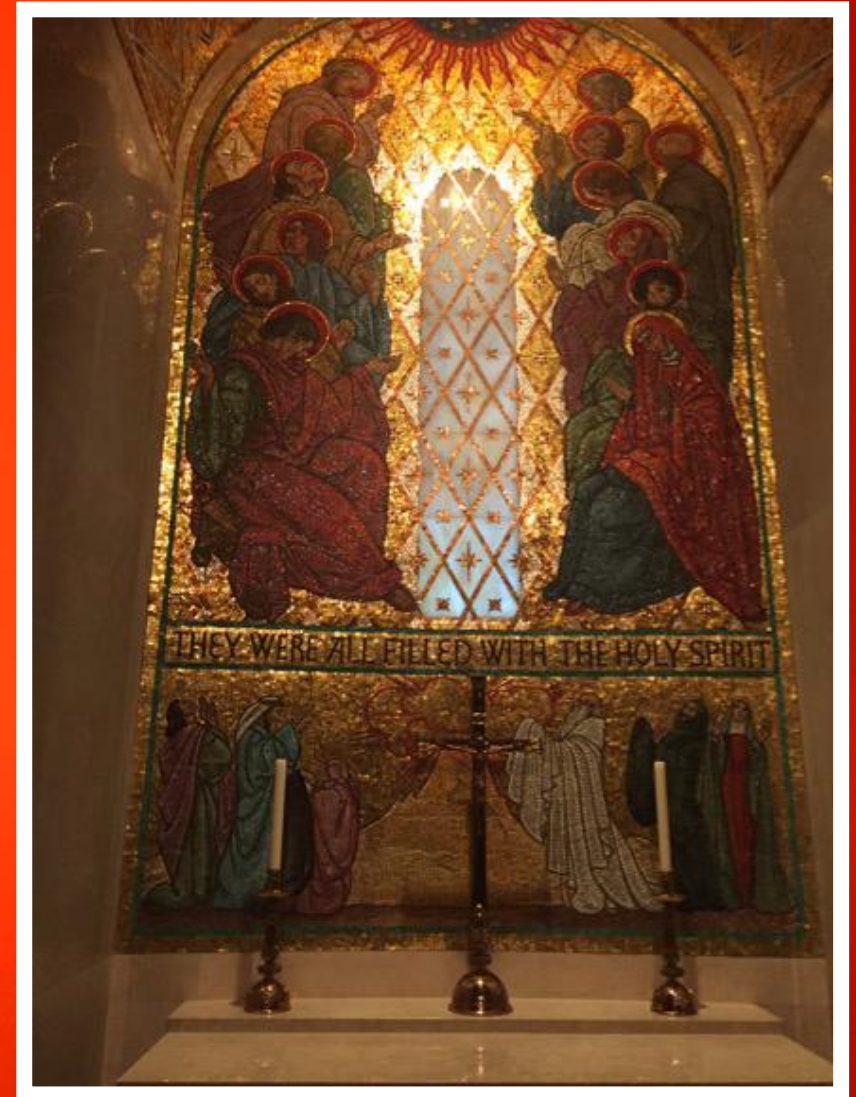
Sacrament	New Testament Evidence of Institution by Jesus (not exhaustive)
Baptism	<u>Matthew 28</u> : Jesus commands His disciples to baptize <u>John 4</u> : Jesus' disciples were baptizing
Eucharist	<u>1 Corinthians 10-11, synoptic gospels</u> : Jesus commands His disciples to "do this..."
Confirmation	<u>Acts 8 and 19</u> : The receiving of the Holy Spirit occurs with the laying on of the apostles' hands at or after baptism
Holy Orders	<u>Acts 6 and 13, 1 Timothy 3-5</u> : Apostles and disciples practice a special laying on of hands to commission for ministry
Anointing of the Sick	<u>Mark 6, James 5</u> : Apostles and presbyters anoint the sick for healing and (in James) the forgiveness of sins
Matrimony	<u>John 2</u> : Jesus blesses the wedding at Cana with a miracle <u>Ephesians 5</u> : Paul treats marriage as holy and special for Christians
Penance	<u>John 20</u> : The risen Jesus gives the Apostles the Holy Spirit so that they can forgive sins <u>Matthew 9</u> : Jesus forgives sins, and this authority is said to have been given "among men"

Sacraments

entrusted to the Church

▶ Matthew 28:18-20

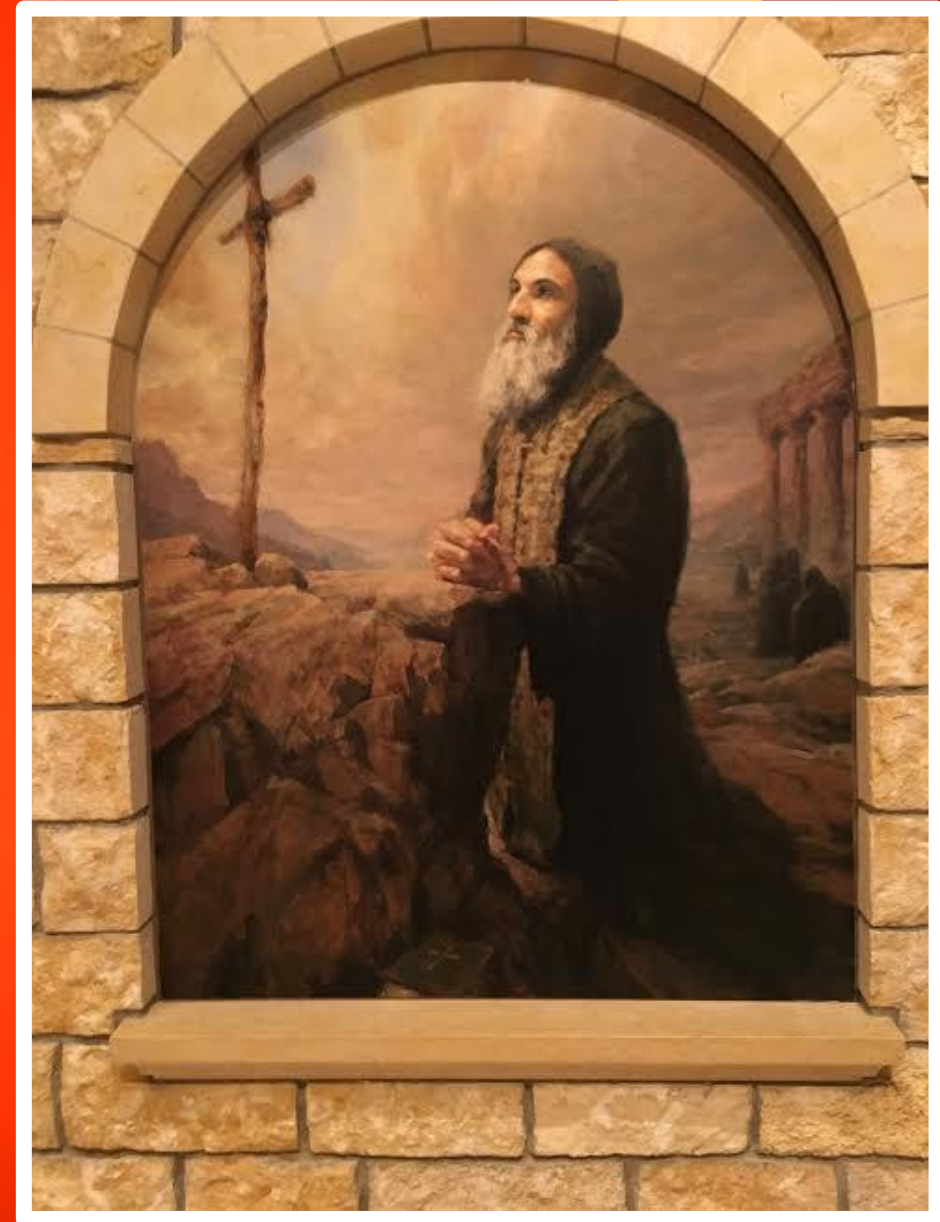
▶ ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”



Sacraments

by which divine life is dispensed to us

- ▶ 2 Peter 1:3-4
- ▶ ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature.



Organizing the Sacraments

By purpose:

Sacraments of Initiation

- ▶ Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

- ▶ Holy Orders and Matrimony

Sacraments of Healing

- ▶ Penance and Anointing of the Sick

By timing:

Birth

Baptism

Age of reason

Eucharist

Adolescence

Confirmation

Adulthood

Matrimony

Holy Orders

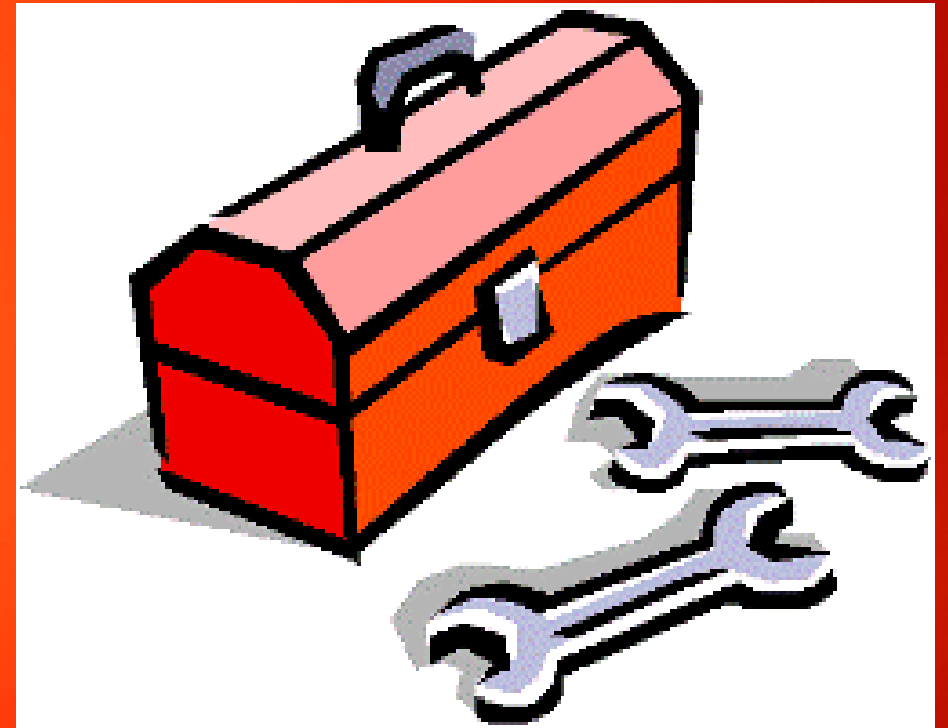
Penance

Death

Anointing of the Sick

Why Sacraments?

1. God made us for mysteries
 - ▶ senses for the visible aspect
 - ▶ a yearning in our souls for the invisible aspect
 - ▶ So, sacraments are the perfect answer to our needs as humans
2. Sacraments are the very means Christ gave.
3. We need the help!



Eucharist

by Melissa Smith

Golden and majestic,
Lifted high.
We bow, and marvel that You're here.
So close that we can see
and adore.

So real that You enter our mouths-
Those unworthy receptacles of Your Kingly presence
We chew and are amazed,
Swallow God into ourselves,
And bask in peace otherwise unknown.

The peace which only flows from You
and ends in burning love of You, Our Savior
and continues out in rippling, growing flames
to envelop those we meet
in its fire.



Sacraments: Questions?



