

Sacraments and Sacramentality

Matt Schwartz, Instructor
Preview Sheet

Required Reading:

Catholic Update: *"What are Sacraments?"*, Joseph Martos

Catholic Update: *"Have Sacraments Changed?"*, Mark Francis

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1113-1134

In order to understand the Catholic Church's seven sacraments, one must first know how it is that God communicates to us. After that revelation, we form rituals based on our history and theology but most of all through our lived experience. Sacraments are the revelation to us of who God is and how we should communicate with him.

As Catholics, our whole world is sacramental. We take the ordinary and through the grace of God make it extraordinary.

This class will identify the words and phrases that Catholics have used over the years to describe the sacraments.

In this class, we will identify the basic themes that have shaped our sacramental world view. We will begin by tracing God's revelation to us and how, as a church, we have responded over the years.

The sacraments are an encounter with God. At the center of the sacraments is the paschal mystery. Since the paschal mystery is a journey, one must be acutely aware of his/her own journey in the approach to the sacraments. In this class we will look at levels of conversion and how the sacraments aid us in our life's journey.

With the understanding that each sacrament will be covered in depth in the context of this year, this class is simply an introduction to the basics of sacraments. However, specific questions about particular sacraments will be discussed.