



# The Seven Catholic Sacraments

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Holy Orders, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick





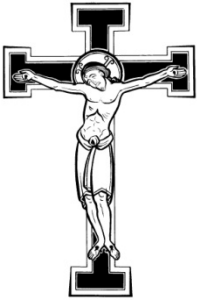


Sacraments of Christian Initiation:

**Baptism**

**Confirmation**

**Eucharist**



Sacraments of Healing:

**Penance (Reconciliation) (Confession)**

**Anointing of the Sick**



Sacraments at the Service of Communion:

**Holy Orders**

**Matrimony**

# What does the Catholic Catechism say about the Sacraments?

# 1210 Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law.

There are seven: **Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.**

The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life: they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the *Christian life of faith*.

# 1212 The sacraments of Christian initiation: **Baptism, Confirmation** and the **Eucharist** – lay the foundations of every Christian life.....

...the faithful are born anew by **Baptism**...

...strengthened by the sacrament of **Confirmation**...

...and receive in the **Eucharist** the food of eternal life.

# 1322 The holy **Eucharist** completes Christian initiation.

# 1324 The **Eucharist** is “the source and summit of the Christian life”.

#1420 Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, man receives the new life of Christ.

... This new life as a child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin.

# 1421 The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to bodily health, has willed that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation, even among her own members. This is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: sacrament of **Penance** and the **Anointing of the Sick**.

# 1535 **Holy Orders** is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time; thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate (bishop), presbyterate (priest) and diaconate (deacon).

# 1601 The **matrimonial** covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

# 1660 The sacrament of **Matrimony** signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life.



## Baptism.....

is the sacrament in which, by water and the power of the Holy Spirit, a person is cleansed of all sin, including original sin and experiences birth into a new life in Christ. The baptism candidate is poured or immersed with water with these words proclaimed:

*“I baptize you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Going into the water is a symbol of dying to the ways of sin and being born to the ways of love, the ways of the Gospel.



## Confirmation....

is the sacrament in which the baptized are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to witness to Christ and continue in the role of disciple of Christ. The confirmation candidate experiences the Laying of Hands and the anointing with chrism oil with these words proclaimed: *“Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”* The anointing by the bishop is a sign of the strength received in order to live out our baptismal promises as “priest, prophet and king”.



## Eucharist....

is the sacrament in which the baptized receive in Holy Communion, the true and real presence of the Risen Lord, his Body and Blood in the appearance of bread and wine.

The communicant receives the Sacred Host and the Sacred Cup with these words proclaimed: *“The Body of Christ”* and *“The Blood of Christ. Amen.”* Receiving Holy Communion unites us to Christ and strengthens us to imitate Christ in our daily living.



## **Penance (Reconciliation).....**

is the sacrament in which a baptized sinner examines his/her conscience, is contrite (sorry for their sins), confesses their sins and receives the absolution (forgiveness) of God and His Church through an ordained minister, the priest. The penitent confesses his/her sins and then receives absolution with these words proclaimed: *"I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."* Receiving absolution (forgiveness), the penitent does penance and is renewed in his/her baptismal grace to continue his/her life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.



## **Anointing of the Sick.....**

is the sacrament in which a baptized physically sick person is given spiritual strength and, if it is God's will, physical healing. The ill person is anointed with the oil of the sick with these words proclaimed: *"Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."* Receiving this anointing, the ill person receives the grace of God to overcome the suffering that they find themselves experiencing, so they may continue their life in Christ on earth or in eternal life.



## Marriage.....

is the sacrament in which a baptized couple (man and woman) unite themselves to become husband and wife, forming the beginning of the domestic Church. The priest or deacon witnesses the exchange of vows given freely by the man and woman which signify the union and love that exists between the couple. The Church hears the following words: *“I, N., take you, N., to be by wife (husband). I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.”*

The married couple receives the grace of God in order to be faithful to their marriage covenant all the days of their lives.



## Holy Orders.....

is the sacrament in which a baptized man is conferred by a bishop the grace of the Holy Spirit and sacred power for the service of the faithful as either deacon, priest or bishop. The candidate for priestly ordination hears, among many words, the following proclaimed: *“Almighty Father, grant to this servant of yours the dignity of the priesthood. Renew within him the Spirit of holiness. As a co-worker with the order of bishops may he be faithful to the ministry that he receives from you. Lord God....”*

The ordained deacon, priest or bishop receives the sacred powers to serve the Church of God with an Examination of the Candidate, Laying On of Hands, and Prayer of Consecration.

