

The Seven Sacraments of the Church

Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism:
- Confirmation:
- Eucharist:

The sacraments of Christian initiation lay the foundation of every Christian life. The sharing in the divine nature given to us through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity.

Sacraments of Healing

- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick

Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, man receives the new life of Christ. Now we carry this life in earthen vessels, and it remains hidden with Christ in God. We are still in our earthly tent, subject to suffering, illness, and death. This new life as a child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin.

The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the same sin 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: the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of Anointing the Sick.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation consists of Penance, Confession, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation.

Sacraments of Commitment (or Service)

- Holy Orders
- Matrimony

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments of Christian initiation. They ground the common vocation of all Christ's disciples, a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world. They confer the graces needed for the life according to the Spirit during this life as pilgrims on the march toward the homeland.

Two other sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are directed towards the salvation of others; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through commitment to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God.

Through these sacraments those already consecrated by Baptism and Confirmation for the common priesthood of all the faithful can receive particular consecrations. Those who receive the sacrament of Holy Orders are consecrated in Christ's name to feed the Church by the Word and grace of God. On their part, "Christian spouses are fortified and, as it were, consecrated for the duties and dignity of their state by a special sacrament.

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole 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