



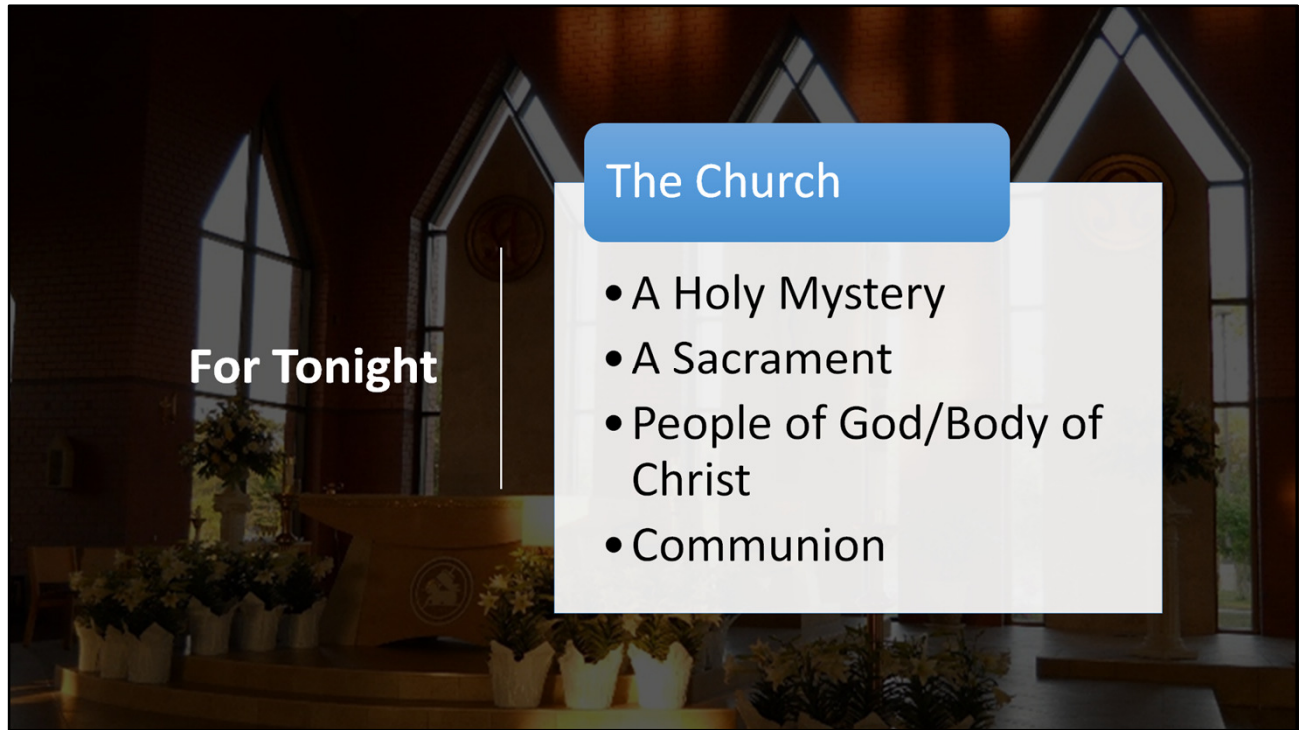
RCIA at Saint Sylvester

Segment 4
Church- Body of Christ

Opening Prayer

- We pray You, O almighty and eternal God!
Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed
Your glory to all nations, to preserve the works of
Your mercy, that Your Church,
being spread through the whole world, may
continue with unchanging faith in the confession
of your name. – Amen-





For Tonight

The Church

- A Holy Mystery
- A Sacrament
- People of God/Body of Christ
- Communion

For Tonight, we will present “what is the Church”

A Holy Mystery- The life of the Trinity

A Sacrament- The institution that affects the grace of God

People of God/Body of Christ- The living stones

A Communion- United in faith, a sharing in Gods Kingdom

What scripture says about the Church

- **Matthew 16:18-19** “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- **Luke 10:16** – “He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you, rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects Him who sent me.”
- **1 Timothy 3:15** – “If I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and the bulwark of the truth.”



Let's take a quick look about some of the New testament scriptures say about the Church.
(read verses)

We can also see how the Early Church Fathers interpreted scripture, and in particular, St Augustine in the 4th century on the “Parable of the good Samaritan”

The man who fell among robbers-US

The robber-satan

The Levite & Priest-religious leaders of the OT

The good Samaritan-Jesus

The Oil & Wine- sacraments, anointing of the sick/The cup of salvation, Eucharist

The Inn & Inn keeper- The church and the new covenant leaders. The coins are Gods unending grace to the church

A Holy Mystery (CCC 758-780) 1 Cor 11: 18-19

- The Church is a holy mystery, because her origin is in the communion of the Trinity.
 - The Father called the Church into existence.
 - Christ founded the Church
 - The Holy Spirit fills the Church with power and wisdom at Pentecost and continues that
- She is “visible” and “spiritual”
 - Visible- earthly, human, ordered.
 - Spiritual- divine, heavenly community, mystical body



In the Old Testament God chose the Israelites to be His people. (CCC, 761 – 762, 778)

In the New Testament, Jesus calls his disciples to form a community of faith as the people of the New Covenant. Jesus inaugurates the Church through his preaching and teaching and in His total self-giving on the cross (CCC, 763 – 766)

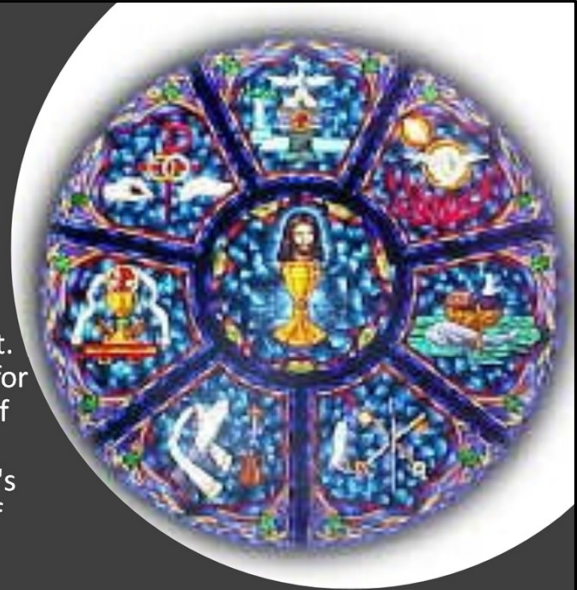
▪The Church: It is a Liturgical Assembly-Local community of believers-World Wide Church

Today this community of faith, hope and love is continued in the Catholic Church. The Church is a mystery that is both visible and spiritual, human and divine, a hierarchical society and the Mystical Body of Christ (CCC, 771, 779)



Sacrament (CCC 774-786)

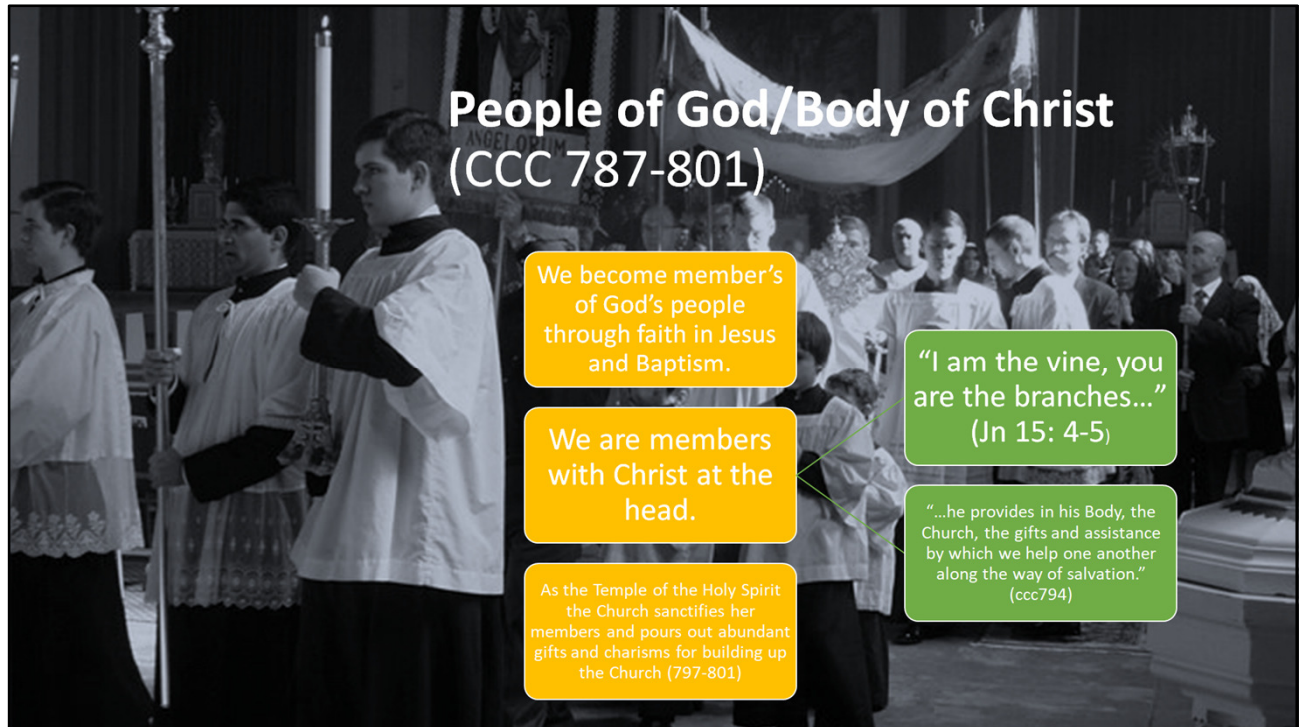
- As a Sacrament of our Salvation, the Church is the sign and instrument of our communion and relationship with God
 - As sacrament, the Church is Christ's instrument. "She is taken up by him also as the instrument for the salvation of all," "the universal sacrament of salvation," by which Christ is "at once manifesting and actualizing the mystery of God's love for men." The Church "is the visible plan of God's love for humanity," because God desires "that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit." See *LG* 9 and 17



The Church is the “sacrament of salvation,” which is to say that the Church is the “sign and instrument” of our union with God and of our union with one another. (CCC, 774). Explain what a Sacrament is and emphasize that the visible Church holds the 7 Sacraments instituted by Christ.

The Church is the “visible plan of God’s love for humanity” (CCC 775 – 776)

▪



We are members of the People of God by faith and baptism. In our common faith in Jesus Christ, we form "one family and one People of God – a priestly, prophetic and royal people (CCC 781 – 786)

We share in his witness

How do we become a member of this Church? Faith & Baptism

Christ provides his graces through the Church. As the Temple of the Holy Spirit the church sanctifies her members and pours out gifts and charisms for building up the Church

It is not just "Me & Jesus" We are called to community

Communion (CCC 813...)

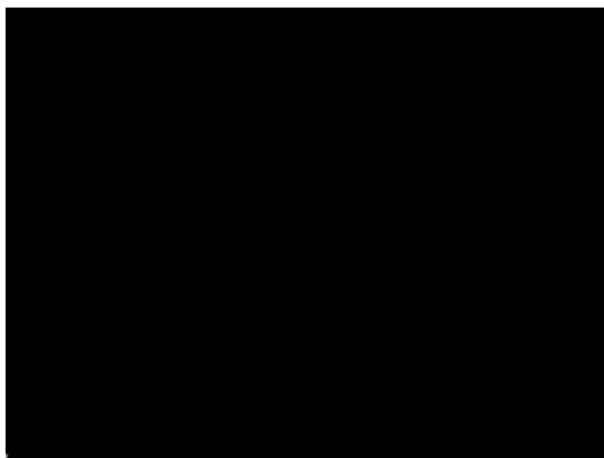
- The Church is a communion that begins with our union in Jesus. Through this we are given a share in the communion of the Trinity and drawn into a community of faith, hope, and love with all men and women.



The Church is the Body of Christ. In the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist “Jesus Christ, once dead and now risen, establishes the community of believers as his own Body.” In this one Body of Christ, there is a diversity of members, functions and gifts. Christ is the head of His Body, the Church (787 – 796)

The Universal Church- Tell the story of Iraq 2009

Bishop Robert Barron



The Catholic Church has the entirety of Christ's gifts to his people. Bishop Robert Barron describes the 'Primacy' of the Catholic Church

Prayer

- Heavenly Father, look upon our community of faith which is the Church of your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to witness to his love by loving all our fellow creatures without exception. Under the leadership of the Holy Father and the Bishops keep us faithful to Christ's mission of calling all men and women to your service so that there may be "one fold and one shepherd." We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.