

RCIA
at
Saint Sylvester

• **Sacraments Overview**



For Tonight

Prayer

Sacraments overview

Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism
- Confirmation



Opening Prayer

- “Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.” As we learn about the sacraments tonight let us all understand that Christ Himself is at work in them as He **continues** the saving works he performed during his earthly life

Amen.

Sacraments

cCC- Part Two, Articles 1066 – 1209

... “efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.” (CCC, 1131)

We recognize that the Sacraments have a visible and invisible reality, a reality open to all the human senses but grasped in its God-given depths with the eyes of faith. When parents hug their children, for example, the visible reality we see is the hug. The invisible reality the hug conveys is love. We cannot "see" the love the hug expresses, though sometimes we can see its nurturing effect in the child.

We say the sacraments are *efficacious* because it is Christ Himself at work in them: it is he who baptizes, he who forgives sins, he who acts in the sacraments in order to communicate the grace that each offers (CCC, 1127 – 1129)

- What is a Sacrament?

It's a sign, that actually does what it signifies.

What is a Sacrament



Sacraments

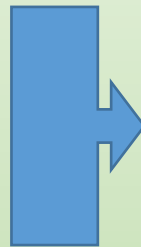
Jesus preached and taught with authority and performed powerful healings and miracles through which he forgave sins and healed the wounds of sin.

In the sacraments of the Church, Christ now **continues** the saving works he performed during his earthly life.

Sacraments

Over the centuries the Church discerned that among the many sacramental celebrations there are **seven** sacraments that were instituted by Jesus himself.

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Confession and reconciliation
- Holy orders
- Matrimony
- Anointing of the sick



Initiation



At the Service of Communion

Healing

Christian initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ.

Sacraments

- The sacraments are “by the church” and “for the church.” (CCC 1117-1121)
 - Why by? Because the Church is the primary sacrament or sign of Christ’s saving actions.
 - Why for the Church? Because they make the Church since they manifest the mystery of our communion with God
- Purpose? (CCC 1122-1126)
 - Sanctify us, to build up the Body of Christ, and finally to give worship to God.
 - They not only presuppose faith, they also nourish, strengthen and express it.
 - That is why they are called “sacraments of faith.”

Sacraments

- The minister – bishop, priest, or deacon and the assembly together participate in the sacramental celebrations that make present the mystery of Jesus' life, death and resurrection – His Paschal Mystery.
- Every sacramental celebration invites us to participate in the mystery of our dying and rising with Christ.

Sacraments

- Can the sacraments help you to grow spiritually?
- Personal prayer and scripture reading. Can it lead to a deeper understanding and participation in the Church's sacraments?
- What part will the sacraments play in your spiritual life?

The Sacraments nourish, strengthen, and express faith.

Each is rooted in scripture and each should always be understood through prayer and scripture. That is where you come in

As we learn them here in RCIA, you are charged to dig deeper into them on your journey.



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- All sacraments were instituted for the spiritual good of the recipients
 - Five, primarily benefit the individual in his/her private character
 - Baptism
 - Confirmation
 - Penance
 - Eucharist
 - Extreme Unction
 - Two, primarily affect man as a social being, and sanctify him/her in the fulfillment of his/her duties towards the Church and society.
 - Orders
 - Matrimony