SACRAMENTS of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

1. **BAPTISM:**
   “Baptism, the gate of the Sacraments, necessary for salvation in fact or, at least, in intention, by which women and men are freed from their sins, are reborn as children of God and, configured to Christ by an indelible character, are incorporated in the Church, is validly conferred only by washing with true water together with the required form of words.” (Canon 849, Code of Canon Law, 1983)

   It is the beginning of a life-long process in the Church. Baptism is celebrated when the parents of the child make a commitment to live, practice, and teach all of the values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Baptism bestows the grace of God on the person; if frees a person of Original Sin; and, it makes that person a true member of the living Christian Community.
   
   • Infant baptism is celebrated only when the parents are actively practicing the Catholic faith.
   • **SPONSORS:** For a person to be a “Sponsor” at Baptism or Confirmation, that person must be at least 16 years old, a confirmed Catholic, and in good standing.
     o “Good standing” means to be attending Mass weekly, the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, an active member of a parish. If the sponsor is married, the marriage must be validated in the Catholic Church.
     o If there are two sponsors, they must be male and female.
     o There is only a requirement for one (1) sponsor.
     o An active, baptized Christian from another faith may act as a “Non-Catholic Witness” to the baptism, and assume the role of godparent. However, there is still a requirement for a Sponsor.
     o If the Sponsor is not from the Church of the Baptism, they would need a “Sponsor certificate” from their own Pastor to verify that they meet all the requirements of Baptism.

2. **RECONCILIATION:**
   “In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the faithful, confessing their sins to a legitimate minister, being sorry for them, and at the same time proposing to reform, obtain from God forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism through the absolution imparted by the same minister; and they, likewise, are reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by sinning.” (Canon 959, Code of Canon Law, 1983)
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday afternoon from 3:45 to 4:15, or other times by appointment. The faithful are required to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.

3. **EUCHARIST:**

   “The Most Holy Eucharist is the most august sacrament, in which Christ the Lord Himself is contained, offered and received, and by which the Church constantly lives and grows. The Eucharistic Sacrifice, the memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated over the centuries, is the summit and source of all Christian worship and life; it signifies and effects the unity of the people of God and achieves the building up on the Body of Christ. The other Sacraments and all the ecclesiastical works of the apostolate are closely related to the Holy Eucharist and are directed to it.” (Canon 897, Code of Canon Law, 1983)

   - The faithful are to receive the Eucharist at least once a year.
   - Those who receive the Eucharist are to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception of water or medicine, for at least one hour before Holy Communion. (Canon 919.1)
   - A person who is conscious of grave sin in not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord until they have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If it is not possible to do so, the person may receive the Eucharist, with the intention to celebrate Reconciliation as soon as possible. (Canon 916)

4. **CONFIRMATION:**

   “The Sacrament of Confirmation impresses a character, and by it, the baptized, continuing on the path of Christian initiation, are enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit, and bound more perfectly to the Church; it strengthens them and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed, and to spread and defend the faith.” (Canon 879, Code of Canon Law, 1983)


5. **MARRIAGE:**

   “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 their 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.” (Canon 1055, Code of Canon Law, 1983)

   Couples wishing to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage are to make arrangements through the parish priest at least six months before the Sacrament is to take place. The couple will enter into a Marriage Preparation
with the priest, as well as participating in either an Engagement Encounter Weekend, or a Pre-Cana conference.

6. **HOLY ORDERS:**
   
   “By divine institution, some among the Christian faithful are constituted sacred ministers through the Sacrament of Orders by means of the indelible character with which they are marked; accordingly, they are consecrated and deputed to shepherd the people of God, each in accord with his own grade of orders, by fulfilling in the person of Christ the Head the functions of teaching, sanctifying, and governing.” (Canon 1008, Code of Canon Law, 1983)

The three levels of orders are the Episcopacy, the Presbyterate, and the Diaconate.

A deacon can baptize, witness a marriage, proclaim the Gospel, preach the homily, and offer certain blessings.
A priest is empowered to do all that a deacon does, and to consecrate the Eucharist, absolve sin in the Name of Jesus, and anoint the Sick.
A bishop is the shepherd of the Diocese, and is responsible for the faith lives of the people entrusted to his care.

Only a baptized male validly receives sacred Ordination.

7. **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**
   
   “The anointing of the sick, by which the Church commends to the suffering and glorified Lord, the faithful who are dangerously sick, so that he relieve and save them, is conferred by anointing them with oil, and using the words prescribed in the liturgical books.” (Canon 998, Code of Canon Law, 1983)

The anointing of the sick can be administered to a member of the faithful who, after having reached the age of reason, begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age. The sacrament can be repeated whenever the sick person again falls into a serious sickness after convalescence, or whenever a more serious crisis develops during the same sickness.