



The Sacraments

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.

The visible reality we see in the Sacraments is their outward expression, the form they take, and the way in which they are administered and received. The invisible reality we cannot "see" is God's grace, his gracious initiative in redeeming us through the death and Resurrection of his Son. His initiative is called grace because it is the free and loving gift by which he offers people a share in his life, and shows us his favor and will for our salvation. Our response to the grace of God's initiative is itself a grace or gift from God by which we can imitate Christ in our daily lives. Through the Sacraments, God shares his holiness with us so that we, in turn, can make the world holier.

The Sacraments

- [Baptism](#)
 - [Baptism](#) - from *The Catholic Sun*
 - [Second edition of the Order of Baptism: Instructional Video](#)
 - [Strengthening the 'domestic church' in the Year of the Family: Baptism](#)
- [Eucharist/First Communion](#)
 - [First Communion](#) - from *The Catholic Sun*
 - [First Communion Explained](#) - video from *Catholic TV*
 - [Kids Explain the Sacrament of First Communion](#) - video from *Catholic TV*
- [Confirmation](#)
 - [Confirmation](#) - from *The Catholic Sun*
 - [Confirmation Explained](#) - video from *Syracuse Catholic TV*
- [Anointing of the Sick](#)
- [Penance/Reconciliation](#)
 - [Light is On for You Campaign](#)
- [Holy Orders](#)
 - [Diocese of Syracuse Vocation Promotion](#)
- [Marriage](#)
 - [Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation in the Diocese of Syracuse](#)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse

240 East Onondaga Street
Syracuse, NY 13202