

Introduction to the Liturgy

Lesson 16 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine why liturgy is important to the life of a Christian.
- The participants will explore how the Holy Trinity is at work in the liturgy.
- The participants will understand how the seasons and feasts in the liturgical year celebrate God's saving power in the events of the life of Jesus Christ.

Content Summary

1. Liturgy is the public, communal, and official worship of the Church.
2. The Eucharist (or Mass) is the central liturgy of the Church and the basis for most other liturgical celebrations.
3. For Christians *liturgy* means the participation of the People of God in the work of God.
4. In the liturgy, God is at work bringing us to our salvation. That is why participation in the liturgy is just as important as having faith in Jesus and living a moral life.
5. The Church's sacred liturgy is Trinitarian. In the liturgy we experience the Holy Trinity at work, and through that experience, the mystery of the Holy Trinity is more deeply revealed.
6. In the Scripture readings and the liturgical prayers at Mass, we recall important moments of salvation history in which the Father was at work. We remember and celebrate the Father's greatest gift to us, the gift of his Son.
7. Jesus Christ plays a central role in the liturgy because he not only gave us the sacred liturgy but also makes himself present to us through liturgical celebrations. He is present in the assembly, in the Word of God—Scripture, and in a special way, the Eucharist.
8. Through the Holy Spirit, the saving work of Christ is actually made real and present in the liturgy.
9. The liturgy and the Sacraments make the saving power of Christ available to us, just as it was to the original disciples and Apostles.
10. The liturgical seasons of the Church are Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, the Easter Triduum, and Easter.
11. Different Catholic Churches that have different liturgical traditions or rites exist within the universal Catholic Church, yet all are legitimate expressions of the liturgy and present the same saving power of God.
12. The Eucharist is a primary source of spiritual nourishment that enables us to grow as Christ's disciples.

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