

Introduction to Liturgy

Chapter 27 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will understand that the liturgy is the communal, public, and official worship of the Church.
- The participants will reflect on the symbolic nature of liturgy.
- The participants will explore the liturgical calendar and its significance in the life of the Church.

Content Summary

1. The communal, public, official prayer or worship of the Catholic Church is called the liturgy.
2. Liturgy is an event that involves action. It is God's work, in which we participate.
3. In the Church's liturgy, we participate in the work of the Holy Trinity by giving thanks and adoration to God the Father, through his Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Every liturgy is made up of symbols—words and actions that have deep meaning. Symbols are things visible to us that put us in touch with something real but invisible, like love.
5. The Sacraments are symbols because Christ is made real through them. Every encounter with Christ in the Sacraments changes us.
6. The Holy Spirit works through our liturgical celebrations to help us see Christ present and active in our midst.
7. The assembly is sacramental because it is a sign of Christ's presence. The Church is often called a sacrament because, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Church makes Christ visible to the world.
8. When we participate in the liturgy, we are made one with all in Heaven and on earth who are united in the love of the Trinity.
9. Even though the Mass is celebrated in different languages around the world, and in different ways, the Church is universal, because even in diversity the Church remains one body in Christ.
10. The liturgical calendar, with its feasts and seasons, helps us celebrate various aspects of the mystery of Christ.
11. Sunday is the most important day in the Christian calendar because it is the day Christ rose from the dead.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition*. Copyright © 2014 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

