

TREASURES of OUR FAITH  
by: Deacon Ryan Adams

Greetings brothers and sisters. As we go through this 'Year of Faith', each week we will take a journey together to deepen and rediscover our faith as Catholic Christians. We will take time to look at the rich traditions of our Church, we'll look at what certain things signify and their symbolism, take time to answer some frequently asked questions and look at why we do certain things as Catholics. This week we'll look at Liturgy.

In Christian tradition, the word Liturgy means the participation of the People of God in the 'Work of God'. Through the Liturgy Christ continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through His Church.

The Liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed. (CCC)

As we are told when the priest or deacon dismisses us at the end of mass, we are supposed to live out the liturgy, 'glorifying the Lord by our lives' so that we can show forth and be examples to all people, those inside and outside of the church. The liturgy gives us that deeper connection or relationship with Christ. We can and must go out those Church doors to live out Christ's love, light and compassion in the world. It is foundational for us today, that just as Christ was sent by the Father, and Christ then sent his apostles filled with the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel to the world, both by their actions and words to accomplish our salvation by means of sacrifice and sacraments, which the entire liturgical life revolves around, which is what we too are called to do. This is not only foundational for us, it's also so very relevant for us, as we are now those apostles being sent out into the world to preach the Gospel by our lives and do the needed missionary work of the Church, all through our living out the liturgy. The liturgy is the summit of what we, as the Church, should live out, we are all sent, so that through our words and actions, the power of the liturgy can flow from us. Both key and foundational is the fact that Christ is always present in His Church, especially through the liturgical celebration. Christ is fully present under the species of the Eucharist, as well as in the person of the celebrant, (in persona Christi) but also through all of us, as a community Christ is present and in his word when we proclaim it, Christ is present. This is a beautiful statement as it lets us know that Christ is fully present in all his people when they come together in the liturgy.

Let us all Go out in Peace, Glorifying the Lord by our lives to the world...

