

Study Guide: Liturgy

To study the topic of the liturgy, consult the Scripture passages listed and the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. What mystery does the Church celebrate in the liturgy? What does it consist of? (CCC 1066-1068)
2. What is the original meaning of the word "liturgy"? What does Christ accomplish through the liturgy as Christians understand the term? (CCC 1069-1070)
3. Why is the liturgy called "a sacred action surpassing all others"? Whose work is it? (CCC 1070)
4. Even though the liturgy is also an action of the entire Church, and involves the "conscious, active, and fruitful participation" of everyone, it does not exhaust the activity of the Church. What actions must take place before the effectiveness of the liturgy can be realized? (CCC 1071-1072)
5. The liturgy is public prayer. How does it relate to private prayer? (CCC 1073)
6. How does the liturgy catechize? What is the method that it uses to accomplish this? (**Note:** The word "**mystagogy**" used in the text means "growth in the mysteries" of the faith. Those mysteries include both the sacraments and how they work, and the understanding of doctrines, such as that of the Trinity.) (CCC 1074-1075)
7. What does the word blessing mean from God's point of view? from man's? What is the "dual dimension" of blessing that the Catechism mentions? (CCC 1077-1078, 1083)

8. What is unique about the Paschal event? How do we participate in it? (CCC 1085, 1088-1090))
9. Why does the Church read Scripture from both the Old and the New Testaments at every liturgical celebration? (CCC 1093-1094, 1100-1101)
10. The word anamnesis means a remembrance. The word epiclesis means a calling down of the Holy Spirit (using some form of gesture and words). Why are both important in liturgy? (CCC 1103, 1104-1107)
11. Who celebrates the liturgy? Why is a private celebration of the Mass (with no one in attendance) discouraged? (CCC 1136, 1140)
12. What kinds of signs and symbols does the liturgy use? (CCC 1145-1152)
13. Why does the Church allow the use of images in the liturgy (such as the crucifix rather than a plain cross)? (CCC 1159-1162)
14. Why do Christians regard Sunday as the Lord's Day? (CCC 1166-1167)
15. What is the importance of the liturgical year? Why is Easter important? (CCC 1168-1171)
16. Why do Christians build churches? Name and describe some important items in a Catholic church building. (CCC 1179-1186)