

Study Guide: Sacraments and “Sacramentals”

To study the topic on the Church's teaching about Sacraments, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. The Catholic Church recognizes seven sacraments. What are they? (CCC 1114)
2. Who instituted the sacraments? How? (CCC 1115-1116)
3. The Catechism distinguishes between “baptismal priesthood” (the common priesthood of the faithful) and the ministerial priesthood. What is the importance of the ministerial priesthood? (CCC 1120)
4. What kind of character do Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders confer on those who receive these sacraments? (CCC 1121)
5. Why cannot the ministerial priest or the Church community change or manipulate a sacrament? (CCC 1124-1125)
6. What does the Catechism mean by saying that the sacraments “confer the grace they signify”? What does the Latin expression *ex opere operato* mean? If the effectiveness of the sacrament does not depend on the faith of the celebrant or of the person receiving it, what does it depend on? (CCC 1127-1128)
7. What are sacraments for? If sacraments confer the grace they signify, what is the role of faith? (CCC 1122-1123)

8. Why does the Catechism hold that, for believers, the sacraments are “necessary for salvation? (CCC 1129, 1130)

9. Why are signs important in religious celebrations, especially Christian ones?. (CCC 1145-1151)

10. Why are signs important in the celebration of sacraments? (CCC 1152)

11. In liturgical celebrations, including all of the sacraments, why are words and actions inseparable? (CCC 1153-1155)

12. What is a “sacramental”? (CCC 1667)

13. What are the characteristics of sacramentals? (CCC 1668)

14. If sacramentals do not confer grace the way sacraments do, why do they exist? (CCC 1669-1670)

15. What main forms do sacramentals take? Give some examples of each type. (CCC 1671-1673)

16. In addition to sacraments and sacramentals, what is the role of popular piety? What are some examples of pious practices that Catholics engage in? (CCC 1674-1676)