

Spirit  **OF**
Christ
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



February 5, 2026



Announcements



- 1) Ben's BABY
- 2) Catechumen Rehearsal for Rite
- 3) Verify Sacramental Record

The Liturgy

Meaning, purpose, origin,
and history



What is the Liturgy?

- In **classical Greek**, *leitourgia* referred to a **public duty or service performed by a citizen for the state** (often at personal expense), such as sponsoring a chorus or outfitting a warship.
- Over time, the word's sense was extended to **any public service**, and then — especially in **Jewish Greek and Christian usage** — to **public religious service or worship**.



What is the Liturgy?

- *Liturgy* means the public and official worship of the Church, offered to God through Christ in the Holy Spirit.
- The prayer of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ.
- Christ continues His priestly work on earth through the Church's liturgy.

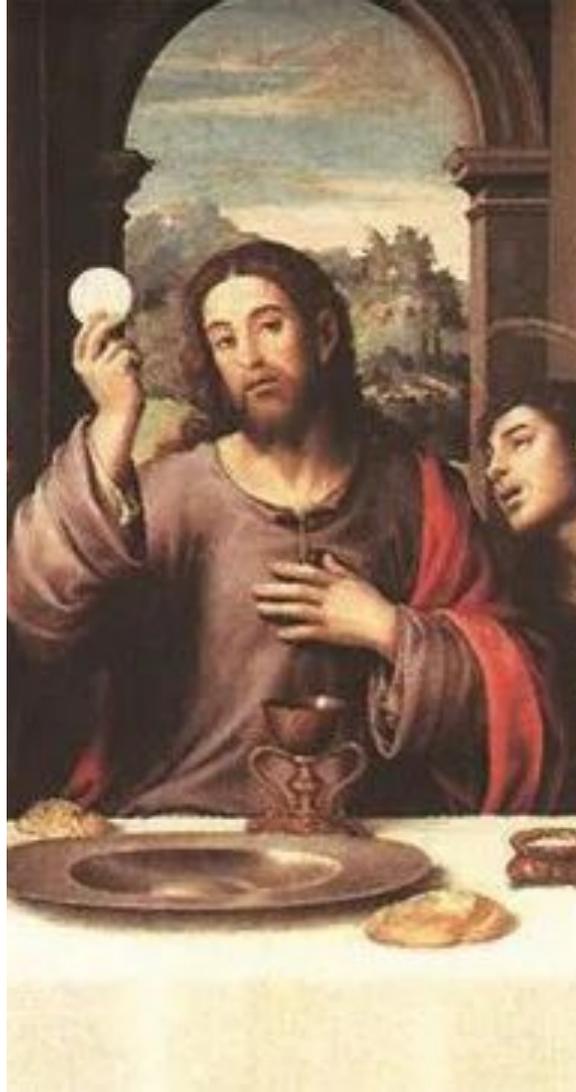


Is the liturgy based on personal feelings or creativity?

- No, it is **objective**: received, preserved, and transmitted by the Church.
- The faithful **enter into** it rather than invent it.
- It expresses the Church's identity and participation in Christ's priesthood.

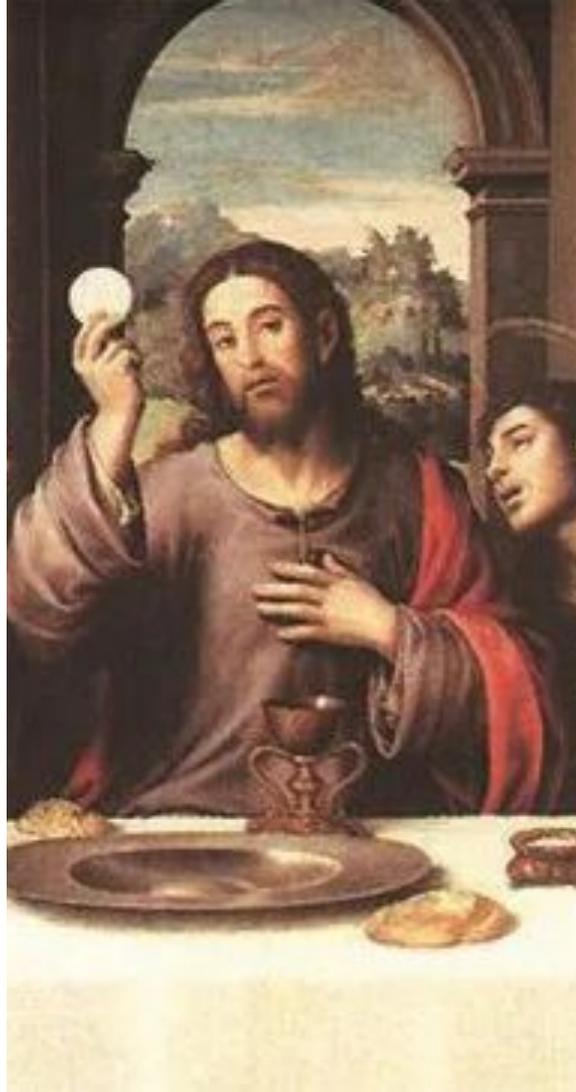


What is the Two-Fold Purpose of the Liturgy?



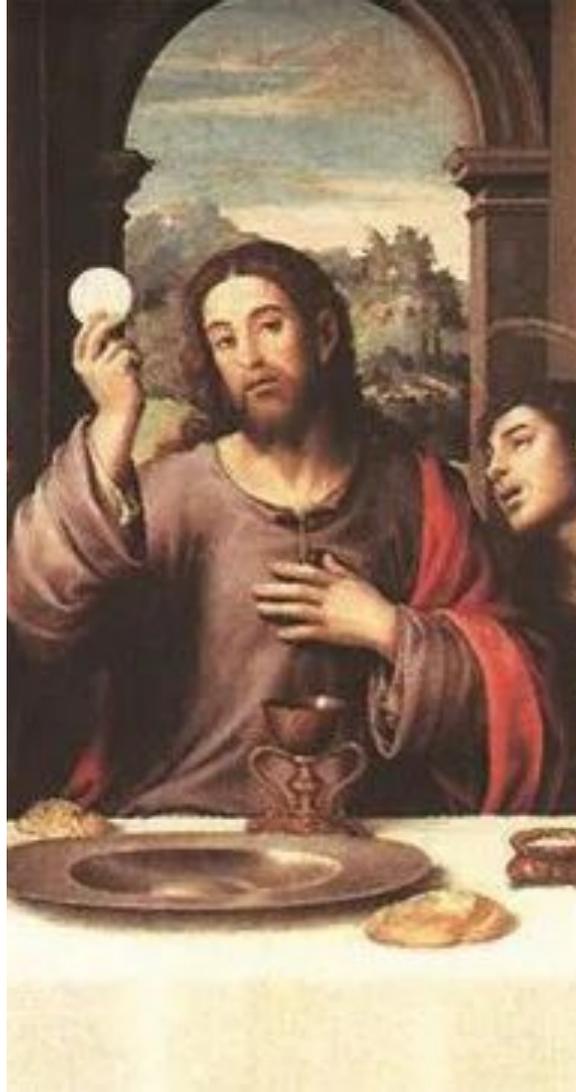
- **The Glory of God**
- To give perfect worship to God.
- Through Christ, the Church offers:
 - Adoration
 - Thanksgiving
 - Reparation
 - Supplication
- Christ, the Eternal High Priest, prays through His Church.
- The Mass and Divine Office are Christ's own worship extended in time and space.

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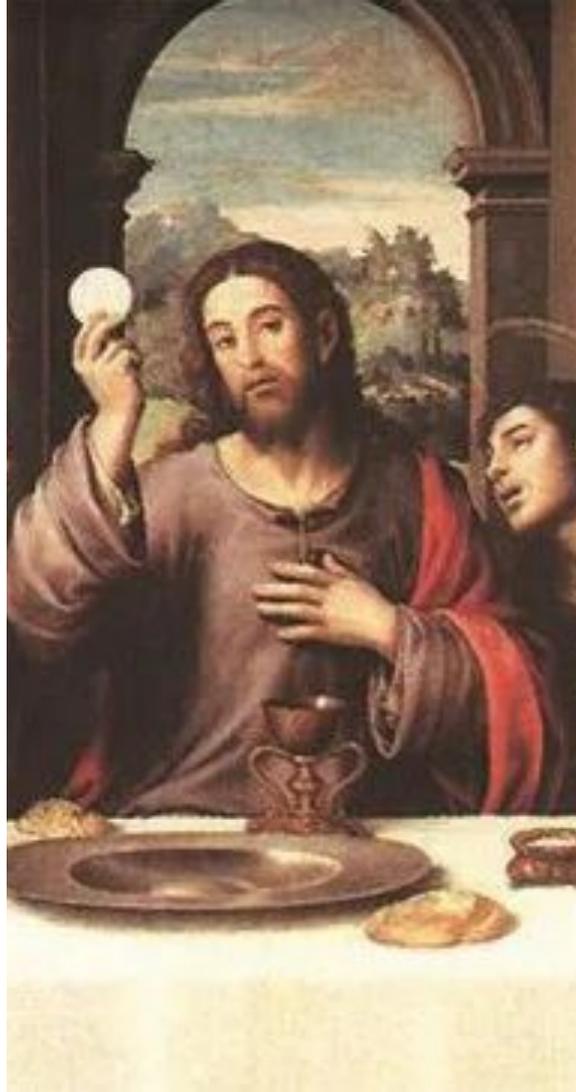
- **The Sanctification of Souls**
- Communicates grace through the sacraments.
- Shapes minds through Scripture, readings, and doctrine.
- Forms hearts through prayer, sacred rhythm, and liturgical seasons.
- The two purpose are inseparable:
 - God is glorified through the holiness of His people.
 - Souls are sanctified by participating in God's worship.

What is the Origin of the Liturgy?



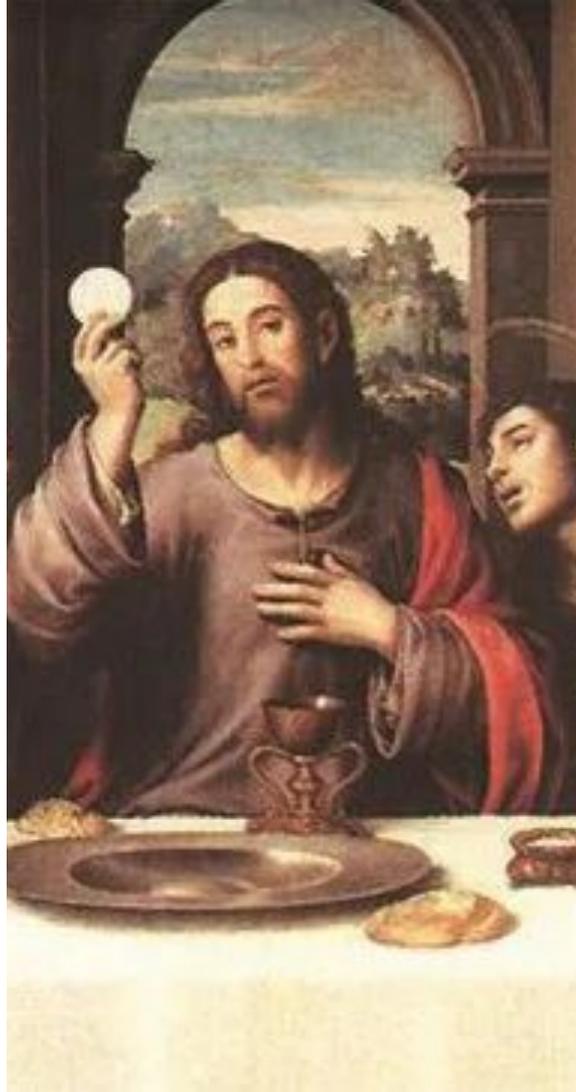
- Its origin is in Christ Himself, not in human invention.
- Most notably at the **Last Supper**, where He instituted the Eucharist.
- Christ commanded: “Do this in memory of me.”
- Jewish worship, psalms, and feasts were **prefiguration** of the Christian liturgy.
- Christ fulfills and transforms them in the New Covenant.

History of the Liturgy



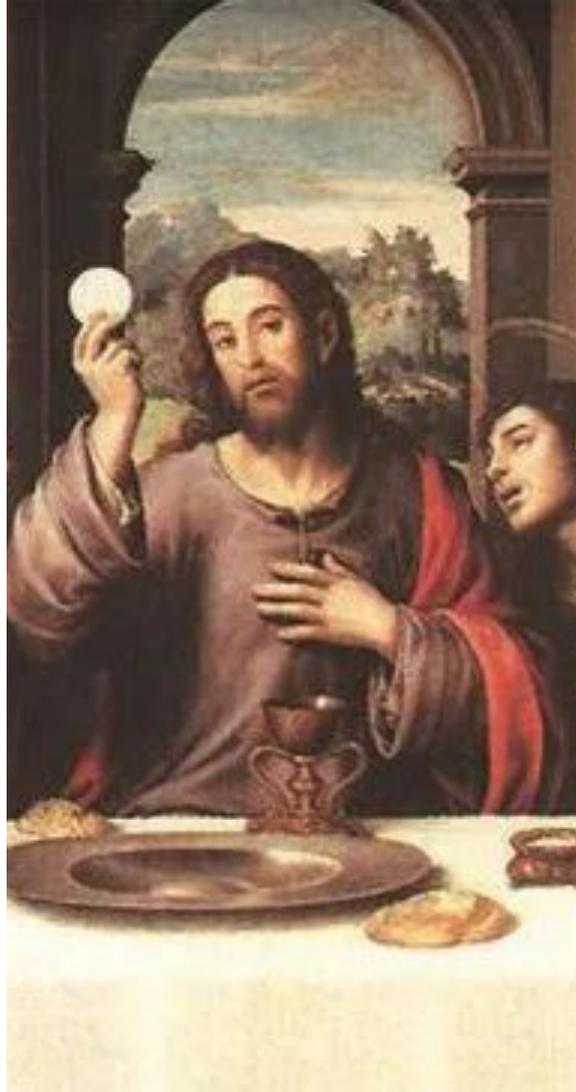
- Sunday as the Lord's Day.
- Annual celebration of Easter and the Lord's Passion.
- Gradual formation of prayers, rites, and feasts.

What is the purpose of the liturgical year?



- To represent Christ's life sacramentally:
 - Advent – expectation
 - Christmas – Incarnation
 - Lent – penance and conversion
 - Easter – victory over death
 - Pentecost – life in the Spirit

How are saints integrated into the liturgy?



- Our Lady and the Saints show what the liturgy produces in a fully formed Christian life.
- Martyrs are honored as witnesses who share in Christ's sacrifice.

How is the Liturgy a Participation in Heavenly Worship?



- The Church's prayer unites with angels and saints.
- Lifts the faithful out of individual concerns into Christ's eternal prayer.
- Earthly liturgy is a **foretaste of the eternal liturgy in heaven.**



Holy Mass

Sacrifice, Sacrament, and Communion

What is the Mass as a Sacrifice?



- The Mass is the **sacramental re-presentation of the one sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.**
- Christ's sacrifice is made present on the altar in an unbloody manner, and the Church is united to His self-offering to the Father.
- The Mass is **one and the same sacrifice as Calvary**, not another sacrifice, but the same Christ who offers Himself through the ministry of priests.
- **Christ Himself is the principal priest**, acting through the ordained minister. The whole Church is united to Christ's offering.

In what sense is the Mass a sacrament?



- The Mass makes present the **Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood**, under the appearances of bread and wine, instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.
- Christ is present **truly, really, and substantially** in the Eucharist after the consecration.
- **Transubstantiation**: the substance of bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Christ, while the appearances remain.

What is Holy Communion and what are its effects?



- Holy Communion is the **reception of Christ Himself in the Eucharist**, given as spiritual food for the faithful.
- Deepens **personal union with Christ**.
- Strengthens **unity with the Church**.
- Commits the communicant to **live the Gospel more fully**.

Who may receive Holy Communion ?



- Baptized Catholics who know what the Eucharist is, are in a state of grace, and approach it with reverence.
- Communion strengthens the faithful to **become what they receive** sent forth to live sacrificial love in daily life.

Easter Vigil

Significance, purpose, and structure





What is the Easter Vigil as what is its purpose?

- The Easter Vigil is the **highest feast of the Church**, celebrated on the night of Holy Saturday, marking the transition from Christ's Passion to His Resurrection.
- It embodies the **central mystery of the Christian faith**—Christ's victory over sin, death, and the power of Satan—and is the culmination of Holy Week.



What is the Easter Vigil as what is its purpose?

- The Vigil leads the faithful from **darkness to light**, symbolizing spiritual liberation from sin and death.
- It instills **hope, joy, and renewal**, reminding Christians of eternal life and the transformative power of grace.

What is the structure of the Easter Vigil?

- Liturgy of the Fire
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of the Water
- Liturgy of the Eucharist



Liturgy of the Fire



- It begins **outside the church in darkness**, representing the world awaiting salvation.
- The **new fire** symbolizes Christ as the eternal Light of the World, overcoming darkness and death.
- The **Paschal candle**, blessed and lit from the new fire, represents **Christ himself**, illuminating the world and human hearts.
- The candle procession, with faithful holding candles, **symbolizes the spread of Christ's light** and the Church's journey from the old covenant to the new covenant in Christ.

Liturgy of the Word

- Readings are taken from the **Old and New Testaments**, recounting God's plan of salvation from Creation, the Fall, the Flood, the Exodus, and Messianic prophecies to the Resurrection
- They show the **continuity between the Old and New Covenants**, emphasizing that the Resurrection fulfills God's long-standing promises.
- It **guides the faithful to reflect on God's promises, human sin, and divine mercy**, preparing them for the sacraments.





Liturgy of the Water

- **Sacraments of Initiation**
 - Primarily the baptism of catechumens, along with renewal of baptismal promises and sprinkling with holy water.
- Baptism symbolizes cleansing from sin and rebirth into the life of Christ, mirroring His Resurrection.
- It transforms the Vigil from a **commemorative event into a personal, transformative experience**, uniting all participants with Christ's victory.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the summit of the Easter Vigil.

The Eucharist makes present the victory of Christ over death.

Christ, now risen, offers Himself sacramentally on the altar.

The newly baptized approach the Eucharistic table for the first time.

The Eucharist becomes the sacrament of resurrection life.



Discussion Questions



- How does the original meaning of “liturgy” as a “public work or service for the people” challenge or enrich the way we think about attending Mass today?
- Why might it matter spiritually that the liturgy is something we enter into rather than customize?
- Which of the two purposes of the liturgy—glorifying God or sanctifying souls—do you tend to notice more in your own participation at Mass?
- Mass as Sacrifice, Sacrament, and Communion. Which of these three dimensions do you most naturally associate with Mass and which do you think is most easily forgotten today?
- How could participating in the Easter Vigil shape how we understand our own conversion and Christian mission throughout the year?



Saint Presentation

St. Carlo Acutis

