

sacrament facts

Sacrament	Type	What it celebrates	Meaning	Primary words and symbols*	Ongoing effect
Baptism	Initiation	Welcome and rebirth	Being born into new life in the community of Jesus	Water, white garment, lighted candle, signing of the cross, anointing with oil	Membership in the church, call to witness
Confirmation	Initiation	Growth in the Spirit	Strengthening of new life	Laying on of hands, anointing and sealing with chrism	Completes baptismal grace, call to witness
Eucharist	Initiation	Jesus' saving death and risen presence in our midst	Remembering Jesus' death and experiencing his real presence.	Bread, wine, words of consecration	Deeper relationship with Christ, spiritual nourishment
Reconciliation	Healing	Forgiveness	Repairing broken relationship with God, others, and church	Confession of sins, words of absolution, laying on of hands	Liberation from sin
Anointing of the Sick	Healing	God's healing love	Living the fullness of life in Christ, even in sickness and death	Laying on of hands, anointing with oil, words of petition	Strength, peace, courage to endure
Marriage	Service of communion	Covenant of love	Forming a bond of union, like that of Christ and the church	Husband and wife, rings, vows	Permanent union of a man and a woman
Holy Orders	Service of communion	Ministry in the church	Taking responsibility for a particular leadership role	Laying on of hands, anointing with oil, prayer of priestly consecration	Sacred powers for service to the church

*The community is a primary symbol in all sacraments.