

PreKeysis Schedule
2/20/08
Eucharist

Review:

1. Sacraments—efficacious sign of grace
2. Sacraments of Initiation.
3. What effect does the Eucharist have on our lives?

Vocabulary

Eucharist: a sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, who is uniquely and really present under the appearances of bread and wine.

Sacrifice: the giving of himself completely on the cross.

Memorial: a response to Jesus' command to "do this in memory of me".

The Presence of Jesus

- Definition of Eucharist
- Sacrament—The visible reality of bread and wine reveals the invisible mystery of Jesus' body and blood. **Jn 6:52-58**
- Memorial—**Lk 22:19** The Eucharist does more than just recall or remember Jesus really, truly, and substantially present with us. It makes it possible for us to take part in and share in the saving work of his salvations, his Paschal Mystery.
- Sacrifice: Jesus linked the Passover supper with his sacrifice on the cross **Lk 22:19-20**. Each celebration of the Eucharist is not a "new" sacrifice. It is a moment when we enter into and share in the timeless offering of the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

- *The Eucharist is "the source and summit of all Christian life".*
- In the Eucharist is found that which is the heart of the Church, Christ himself.
- The Eucharistic celebration always includes certain elements that constitute one single act of worship.
- The Celebrant: priests act in the person of Christ when they celebrate the Eucharist
- Liturgy of the Word: the word of God is proclaimed during every celebration of the Eucharist.
- Liturgy of the Eucharist: the eucharist presence of Christ is accomplished when the elements of wheat bread and grape wine, the signs of the sacrament, are consecrated by a validly ordained priest. This consecration take place during the Eucharist prayer.

- Communion: we participate in the Eucharist most fully when we receive Christ's Body and Blood in Holy Communion.
 - You should try and receive communion whenever you go to Mass
 - You must be in a state of grace
 - Obligated to receive at least once a year
 - Go to receive under both forms when available.

The Graces of the Sacrament:

- One with Christ—Christ comes to us in the Eucharist and we are strengthened by our union with Christ.
- Spiritual food—the Eucharist preserves, increases, and renews the Holy Spirit's life of grace within us.
- Strength—Communion with Christ strengthens our ability to love and be loved; with frequent reception of the Eucharist, less inclined to give into temptation and sin.
- Forgiveness: by receiving communion, we are cleansed from all sin except mortal sin
- Commitment to the poor: we are obliged to act upon the sacrament and love one another
- Everlasting friendship: The Eucharist is Christ's pledge of his friendship in this world and forever in the next.

Questions to ponder:

- Why doesn't the Eucharist look like flesh and blood if that's what it really is?
- Why don't other churches believe in the true presence?
- What does it mean to be in a state of grace and what happens when we receive the Eucharist in mortal sin? **1 Cor 11:27-29**
- Why does the Church say we have to receive communion at least once a year?