

## *The Catholic Sacraments*

The secret is not  
in your hand  
or your eye  
or your voice  
my aunt once told me.

The secret is in your heart.

Of course, she said, knowing that doesn't  
make it any easier.

Story People – Brian Andreas



Two main points for today: 1) The sacraments were instituted by Christ, in the sense that they celebrate important aspects of Jesus' life; 2) Church is us, and to celebrate the sacraments we must re-member, be present, and have a sense of community!

## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

### Housekeeping!

#### 1. Books:

1. Noll (brown book): Our class is based on this book. Great CD with assortment of sacrament classics.
2. Cooke (blue book): Lays down the concepts by which we understand sacrament today. Several chapters are on the CD. This is my favorite book.



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### Discussion Questions

1. How do you think the sacraments are instituted by Christ? How are they not?
2. Suppose that you were asked to choose an eighth sacrament based on an action of Jesus. What would you choose?
3. Do you see yourself as a healer and forgiver in your world?
4. Most of us have experienced times of remembering, of bringing something that happened in the past to the present. What do you think these experiences share in common? Do you think presence is required?



Eighth sacrament. Something to do with social justice or communal sin  
– washing of the feet!

## Review

### ☞ Symbols – Multiple meanings/dimensions

- ☞ Fundamental to building community and relationships via rituals.

### ☞ Sacrament

- ☞ Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.
- ☞ We touched on the idea that the seven Sacraments are based upon two broader sacraments from God – Jesus and the Church.

Symbols are a complex form of signs. They are all we can use to describe God. They provide great insight and great frustration. Symbols are mushy and defy logical explanation. We live in a time when logical thought is highly valued. Symbolism suffers greatly in this environment, because when you “get the meaning” it can't be analyzed logically.

Jesus taught in symbols all the time. When we reject the symbolism, we are left with only the physical meaning, which leads to fundamentalism.

Ritual makes it possible for us to experience, celebrate and pass on important concepts and events that define us as a community.

## *Review*

📖 **Symbols** – One symbol we didn't talk about last week that maybe we should have is the power of words.

- 📖 God created the world with words.
- 📖 Jesus is the Word of God.



# *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

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## ☞ The broad view of Sacrament

☞ What realities are fundamental and primary to our relationship with God?

☞ Creation

– The most basic sign of God's favor.

☞ Israel

– Israel would not exist if it were not for God.

☞ Jesus

– God's self gift!

☞ The Church



– Christ instituted the church.




## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

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### Jesus as Sacrament

-  “If you want to know what a sacrament is and what a sacrament does you can do no better than look at Jesus as we find him in the New Testament.”
-  For Christians, the human Jesus is the most personal and outward sign of God's love – he is, literally, the foundation of Christian sacrament.

Lets look at some of the things that Jesus did.



*Jesus and Church as Sacrament*  
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🌀 **Jesus the Baptist?**

- 🌀 Lots of examples in Scripture of Jesus involved with baptisms:
  - 🌀 John the Baptist “baptized” Jesus
    - Baptism of moral conversion or repentance.
    - Long history of baptism
  - 🌀 Jesus involved in baptism?
    - John 3:22, 26
  - 🌀 Jesus supervised baptisms
    - John 4:1 – 3

Long history of baptism (Martos pg. 143-144)





Christian baptism is one of forgiveness for sin (born of water) and reception of the Holy Spirit. Baptism marks the beginning of a new life – living in love instead of under the law, living in forgiveness instead of guilt.

Read file 12 [William J. Bausch] for a description of why Jesus was baptized by John. Here's the most important part –" Now we can understand why Jesus came to be baptized by John. The early Christian church was at first embarrassed by this because some of them tended to think of baptism exclusively as forgiving sin and how could this be true of Jesus? But on reflection they saw the importance and the meaning of what Jesus did. He was baptized by John as a sign that he was the new age. He was himself the inaugurator of the new times. In his own life he repeated all that went before in Israel: his baptism was Israel's Red Sea crossing, his forty day fast was Israel's forty years' wandering in the desert, his three temptations were exactly those proposed and surrendered to by Israel but resisted by him--but now he gives new dimensions to all that was foreshadowed. Where Israel failed, he succeeded. Where Israel grumbled, he was obedient. Where Israel doubted, he put his trust in the Father. Where Israel turned to idols, he worshiped none other than God. Where Israel was the figure of all that God would do for the Jews, Jesus was the reality of all that God would do for all. Jesus was the old times fulfilled. He brought a new era. And, as we might now expect, this new era was ushered in by water and the Spirit."

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### Jesus the Baptist?

-  Mark shows Jesus had a strong sense of his baptism (Mk 10:38)
  -  “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the same baptism that I am baptized with?”
-  John shows Jesus had a strong sense of the need for baptism (Jn 3:5)
  -  “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the spirit.”

Mark's gospel refers to a different kind of baptism (than Christian Initiation) and cup (not Eucharist).

The Jerome commentary suggests that these images reference back to Is 51:17 – 22 (cup) and Ps 69:2 – 3, 15 (baptism). These images refer to a baptism of despair, of asking for deliverance from persecution. The cup is the cup of wrath.


The verse from John demonstrates the need for conversion to God to receive salvation. This is an effect similar to what present day Baptism is supposed to celebrate. Remember that John was written about 40 years after Paul's writings on baptism, so be careful about assigning too much weight to the words coming from Jesus.

Christian baptism is one of forgiveness for sin (born of water) and reception of the Holy Spirit. Baptism marks the beginning of a new life – living in love instead of under the law, living in forgiveness instead of guilt.

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### Jesus the Baptist?


 The early church embraced the concept of baptism as part of the initiation ritual.

 Acts 2:38,40

– Baptisms at Pentecost

 Acts 8:14 – 17

– Baptism of Samaritans

 Acts 10:44 – 48

– Baptism of Gentiles



## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

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- ☞ What does baptizing signify?
  - ☞ Living life to the fullest
  - ☞ Any ideas on how this could be?
    - ☞ Hint: Assumptions for our class
      - We want to be transformed
      - We are made in the image of God
      - We have a choice









Why would the church make such a big deal about Baptism? What does baptism signify? Living life to the fullest!”

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### Jesus the dinner guest

#### Luke has several examples of Jesus participating in meals

-  Lk 5:29 Celebration for Levi becoming a disciple
-  Lk 7:36 The woman anointing Jesus with perfume
-  Lk 10:40 Martha and Mary
-  Lk 14:7 Positioning for places of honor
-  Lk 19:5 Dinner with the tax collector
-  Lk 22:14 The Last Supper
-  Lk 24:30 Emmaus
-  Lk 24:41 The Upper Room

Lk 5:29 Levi becomes a disciple and holds a banquet, inviting many of his tax collector friends. The Pharisees are upset because Jesus eats with sinners.

Lk 7:36 The woman bathed Jesus' feet in tears, dried them with her hair, and anointed them with perfume.

Lk 10:40 Martha says Lord, do you not care that my sister has left all the hospitality chores to me? Mary has chosen the better part.

Lk 14:7 When he noticed that guests chose places of honor Jesus tells them to be humble or they might get embarrassed.




Lk 19:5 Zacchaeus the tax collector climbed a tree to better see Jesus, and Jesus decides to stay with him.

Lk 24:41 The resurrected Jesus eats a fish.

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### What does dining signify?





-  Fellowship and Love
-  Any ideas on Scripture verses that drive this home?
  -  Where two or three are gathered in my name ...



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### Jesus the healer

-  Mt 4:23 Curing every disease and every sickness
-  Mt 9:2 Paralytic man
  -  example of parallel between physical and spiritual healing
-  Lots more!



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- ☞ What does healing signify?
  - ☞ Compassion & forgiveness
  - ☞ Which Scripture comes to mind?
    - ☞ Love God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself.



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### Jesus the sender

-  Mt 28:16 – 20 Go baptize and make disciples ... I am with you always
-  Lk 10:1 – Sending of the 70 (or 72) in pairs



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- ☞ What does sending signify?
  - ☞ Discipleship
  - ☞ Which Scripture comes to mind?
    - ☞ As the Father has sent me so I send you



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### Sacramental Jesus

#### Living life to its fullest

- We want to be transformed
- We are made in the image of God
- We have a choice

#### Fellowship and love

- Where two or three are gathered in my name ...

#### Compassion and forgiveness

- Love God and neighbor

#### Discipleship

- As the Father has sent me so I send you

We want to be transformed

We are made in the image of God

We have a choice

Where two or three are gathered in my name ...

Love God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself.

As the Father has sent me so I send you

## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

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- ✚ The Catholic Sacraments are an attempt on the part of the Church to “pass on” what it means to be a Christian by ritualizing the actions of Jesus.
- ✚ Jesus did not institute the *Sacramental rituals* ...
  - ✚ As people were taught by the Baltimore Catechism: “A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.”
- ✚ He did much more – he lived the essence of the Sacraments!

We defined grace as a quality instead of a quantity last class. Grace is an improvement in our relationship with God (we are graced by God).

## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

☞ **The church is the fundamental sacrament of Christ.** (Jn 20:21 – 22)

☞ As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

☞ Jesus' mission was one of salvation, thus the church's mission is salvation.

☞ **Receive the Holy Spirit**

☞ Discipleship and the Holy Spirit go hand in hand!

☞ **Let's look at some of the functions of the church.**

Jesus is the foundation of Christian sacrament. The church is the fundamental sacrament of Christ.

Lets look at some of the functions of the church.

## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

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### The church is a sacrament of salvation

“If anyone were to ask me what is the key concept of Vatican II, I would reply without hesitation that it is the concept of the church as sacrament. ... It unites all the conciliar documents ... it consecrates the unity of the church's action from the first evangelization to the celebration of the Eucharist. In allowing the church to take its unity from its source, Jesus Christ, it allows it to hold to this, a living tradition and an opening for mission.”





– Fr. Guillou, theological expert at Vatican II

Consecrate == declare as sacred.

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### The church is a witness to Christ

-  Christ is the light of the world.
  -  The church reflects that light like the moon reflects the light of the sun.
  -  The church does the work of Christ.
  -  The church is the conduit of salvation.

The church does the work of Christ, not its own work.



The church is the means (or conduit) of salvation, not the source.

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### Who is “the church?”

#### We are!

-  All the *active* Christians throughout the world.
-  Active requires more than our physical presence, it requires that we be engaged:
  - Physically
  - Emotionally
  - Spiritually
  - Cognitively



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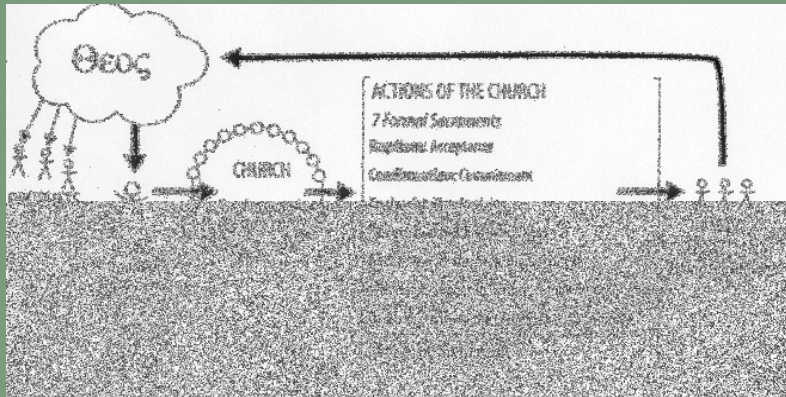
“There is a very real sense in which, when any one of us *chooses to act as Jesus was known to act*, we too become living sacraments in our world. When I forgive my brother or sister from my heart, I become a sacrament of forgiveness; I unveil the face of God who forgives, just as Jesus himself did. This missionary dimension of the sacraments is extremely important; it is the daily application of a person's baptism and confirmation. But Christians will not embrace this missionary dimension of the sacraments if they are presented to them as only a means of salvation for themselves. They are certainly a means of salvation, but inclusively for the whole world. Sacraments are a revelation of God, the presence of God in our affairs.”

– Noll, pg. 38 - 39



## Put it All Together

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.



God gave us the prophets who culminated in Jesus. The actions of Jesus pointed to God – they were signs of God's favor. Jesus instituted the church, which ritualized important actions of Jesus so that they could be experienced, celebrated and passed on. When we live the sacraments, we grow closer to God and make God present to those around us. Thus we participate, by imaging Jesus, in the salvation process.





## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

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### Important concepts for being church

#### Remembrance

-  Not going into the past, but bringing the past to the here and now.
  - Passover Meal
    - » Eating bitters to make the suffering of slavery present now.
-  “Remember me in your will.”
  - Causes an action in the present. Not a mental “remember,” but a “cause an action” remembrance.






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### Important concepts for being church

#### Remembrance

-  Bringing the past to the here and now.
-  "Remember me in your will."
-  Israel doesn't ask God to remember them in a cerebral sense, they want God to act now!





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### Important concepts for being church

#### Remembrance

-  A process of re-mem-bering ourselves to those that we are indebted to.
-  Causes an effect in the present.



Passover Meal, Jesus, Veterans, Scientists, family – all those that went before us.

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### Important concepts for being church

#### Presence

-  What does it mean when we say our 'presence' at Mass is required?
  - Not just talking about physical presence!
-  What is required is more active than our physical being. We must be present with our attention, with our desire to worship God and be in communion with God and our fellow Christians.
  - This can't be forced upon us. It is our self-gift.

Presence: Talk about my mom yelling at my dad for not paying attention when she talks – he wasn't present even though he was physically there!

## *Jesus and Church as Sacrament*

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### Important concepts for being church

#### Community





There is a profound link between each of us, between us as a community of believers, and those that went before us and will come after us. Together we make up the Body of Christ. We image Christ best when we worship as an *active* community. Our whole sense of sacrament is based on the idea that we are “people of Christ,” that we are truly connected to Christ. The concept of Church and salvation hinges on this concept.

Reference to 1 Cor 12:12 – One body with many members

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### Summary

-  Jesus is the foundation of sacrament
-  The church is the fundamental sacrament
-  The Sacraments ritualize the actions of Jesus so that they can be experienced, celebrated and passed on.
-  Important concepts of church: Remembrance, presence, and community.

Reference to 1 Cor 12:12 – One body with many members