

AN EXPLANATION OF THE SYMBOLISM OF THE SACRAMENTS

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BAPTISM

The background of the design is a large cross, the sign of redemption. In the center is the Christogram which stands for the two first letters in the name Christ, who is the Redeemer, (X or CH and P or rho, CHR) the highest exemplar of Christian life. In the baptismal font is a dove, an ancient symbol of the soul being washed with the water flowing from a shell above. Shells, found in waters, have been used by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan River. The candle, symbolizes the infusion of light to one's soul at Baptism. The branch of green leaves stands for spiritual life, and the berries represent the good works performed by God's adopted children.

CONFIRMATION

The Holy Spirit is shown in the traditional symbol of the white dove descending upon the soul and showering His gifts, there represented by the rays. The background is a circle symbolizing God as having no beginning and no end. Beneath the Holy Spirit are a Bishop's mitre and crozier expressing the fact that the sacrament is administered by a Bishop who himself is anointed and may anoint with sacred oils the faithful to strengthen them in their combat with the powers of evil. Even in ancient pagan times oil was used to strengthen athletes before their undertakings.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (represented by the chalice and the host) is the sacrament sustaining life of the soul. The former contains the wine made from grapes, and the host or bread baked from wheat; both used in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. On the host is the monogram JHS representing the name of Jesus in Greek. Bread and wine have been the everyday food and drink of many ancient peoples particularly the Jews.

PENANCE

In the design, the raised hand of the priest is a symbol of the remission of sins of a penitent; the purple stole, the sign of the priest's power to forgive sins in God's name. The large key in the background is a symbol of opening again the doors to the divine life lost by the soul through sin. The serpent beneath represents sin and all the evil in the world.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

This Sacrament prepares the soul for the passage from temporal life to life everlasting with God. In the center, against a white cross in the CHI RHO or the Christogram surmounted by five crosses, one for each of the organs or senses anointed and marked with the sign of the cross when the sacrament is administered. The two candles, the plate of five balls of cotton and the cask with the Holy Oils complete the items necessary for the administering the Sacrament of the Sick.

HOLY ORDERS

Holy Orders endow a young man with the powers of priesthood. The stole symbolizes the office of shepherd of souls and the authority to administer some of the sacraments. The book is the Missal used by the priest at the Mass which he is privileged to celebrate daily. The candle represents the light of the Holy Spirit which enlightens the priest in the various functions he performs: teaching and instructing in faith and guiding the Christian souls in matters of faith and dogma.

MATRIMONY

The design is placed against a triangle which has a twofold significance: that of the Holy Trinity blessing the marriage and the contract drawn among the three partners: God, the bride, and the groom. The two lamps with their interlocked handles represent the burning love one party has for the other, the fruit of which love is the procreation of new life as seen in the green olive branch. The olive branch is also a symbol of peace which should reign in the home. In the two upper corners are additional symbols: two interlocked rings joined with a cross and two clasped hands, both of which represent union and fidelity.

7th Grade Choir of Angels Definitions to know

Cherubim: One of the highest of the nine choirs of angles. They are responsible for bestowing knowledge and for celestial records.

"Word of God": An expression that refers to God's message of salvation proclaimed to humanity

Ambo: A single speaker's podium, where the readings and homily are said from. It is also known as the pulpit.

Mother of Perpetual Help: A picture of Mary holding Jesus c. 13th century. It is made out of wood and painted gold with Angels flying around the background.

Gabriel: An archangel that comes to Mary to tell her she would give birth to the Savior Jesus Christ. His name means *God is my strength*.

Matthew: A Jewish Roman tax collector. He wrote the First Gospel. He was one of the twelve apostles, and he went through a conversion.

Mark: An apostle who traveled with Paul and Barnabus, whom was his cousin. He wrote the Second Gospel. He is also known as John Mark in the New Testament.

Luke: Gentile, Christian Apostle. He wrote the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.

John: An apostle. He wrote the Fourth Gospel, three letters, and the Book of Revelations.

St. Paul: aka Saul, persecuted Christians, blinded by God until he became a Christian.

St. Anthony of Padua: doctor of the church. Joined Franciscan Friars and died a martyr's death.

Holy Bible: collection of books inspired by God teaching us about God

Faith: needed for salvation and received through baptism (supernatural power)

Incarnation: truth that God became man through Mary