

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF THE SACRAMENTS

The sacraments celebrated by the Church are signs of grace that make a deeper reality present to us. One reality we encounter through the sacraments is Christ's presence in the Church community, his Body. This recognition of Christ's presence in the community should lead to a stronger awareness of being sent on mission to engage in love-inspired action in the world.

As Pope Benedict XVI notes in *Deus Caritas Est* (God Is Love), the celebration of the sacraments and the ministry of love are "inseparable." Love in action, he says, is "an indispensable expression" of the Church's being (no. 25).

– USCCB [Sacraments and Social Mission Living the gospel, Being Disciples](#)

One of the greatest myths and misconceptions about our Catholic faith is that the seven sacraments are not found anywhere in Scripture. Let's get right to the point: this is an absolutely false assertion.

The sacraments were instituted by Jesus, and they were then formally carried out by His apostles and handed on to their successors, the bishops. All of the sacraments have a clear biblical basis, intrinsically and implicitly. A sacrament is defined as "an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to bring grace. Always remember that the Catholic Church is founded on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The two work hand-in-hand to make known to us the fullness of God's revelation, through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, the need to adhere to both Scripture and Tradition is itself, a biblical truth and Scriptural command, "*Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours*" (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

Below are some of the Scriptural references we use when giving a Scriptural basis for the Catholic sacraments.

– Courtesy of the GreatAdventureOnline.com

The following scriptures focus on the Sacrament of Baptism, the rite of initiation into the Christian community. As you read, consider the meaning of your own Baptism, your membership in the community, and the mission on which you are sent.



Baptism *Incorporated into Christ's Body, Sent on Christ's Mission*

Old Testament Readings

- Genesis 15:1-6, 18 – So shall you descendants be, To your descendants I give this land.
- Genesis 17 1-8 – I will establish my covenant between myself and you, and your descendants after you, generation after generation, a covenant in perpetuity
- Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 – Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live.
- 2Kings 5:9-15 – Naaman went down and washed himself seven times in the river Jordan and became clean.
- Isaiah 44:1-3 – I will pour my spirit upon you descendants.
- Ezekiel 36:24-28 – I will pour out on you clean water and you will be cleansed from all your sins.
- Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 – I see the water flowing from the temple and all who were touched by it were saved.

New Testament Readings

- Matthew 16:24-27 – If anyone wishes to follow me, let him deny himself.
- Matthew 3 1-17 – John the Baptizer.
- Matthew 28:18-20 – Go and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Mark 1:9-11 or Luke 3:21 – Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- Mark 16:15-16, 19-20 – He who believes and is baptized will be saved.
- John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18 – He gave power to become children of God to all who believe in his name.
- John 3:1-6 – Unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- John 3:16-21 – Everyone who believes in him will have everlasting life.
- John 12:44-50 – I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not remain in the dark anymore.
- John 15:1-11 – Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty.
- John 4:5-14 – The water I give will become a fountain of living water springing up into life eternal.
- John 7:37-39 – Streams of living water shall flow from his heart.
- Acts 2:14, 36-40, 41-42 or Galatians 3:26-28 – Everyone of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Acts 8:26-38 – If you believe with your whole heart, you shall be baptized.
- Acts 9:18 or John 9:1-7 – He leaves, and washes, and returns able to see.
- Romans 6:3-11 or 6:3-5, 8-11 – When we were baptized we joined Jesus in death so that we might walk in the newness of his life.
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
- Ephesians 4:1-6 – One Lord, one faith, one baptism.
- Ephesians 1:3-10, 13-14 – The Father chose us to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ
- Titus 3:4-7 – We are saved by the cleansing water of rebirth and by being renewed with the Holy Spirit