

CALLED TO USE OUR GIFTS WISELY

We recognize that God has made us **stewards of all creation**. The blessings and gifts that God has given us are meant not only for our own benefit but for the good of all people throughout the world. This conviction compels us to place our **time, talent, and treasure** at the service of the Church and the world.



We share our own gifts with others because we know they do not truly belong to us but come from God. We work, sometimes struggle, to remain detached from our possessions and gifts so that our lives will point to a greater reality, God's presence in our midst today and the fullness of life with God when we pass from this world to God's heavenly reign. We are especially devoted to bringing God's blessings to those who are most in need because of poverty, violence, or division.

We use our time, talent, and treasure to build up the Church in our **local parish communities** so that the Church will become a strong and credible sign of God's marvelous work in the world. We try to echo words that Jesus repeated often in his life and ministry: **"The reign of God is in our midst!"**



SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

The **Christian family** is the central place for passing on our faith in God.

We grow in our faith and in our willingness to share it by discovering the manifold and wonderful ways that **God works in our midst**. We reach out to those who are isolated, hurt, disconnected, or overburdened by difficulties. We bring the message of good news that we know in Christ. We join in Christ's transforming work in the world so that God's peace and justice will touch every area of society, especially where there is great need.

As members of the Catholic Church, we are committed to the commission Jesus gave to the first disciples to spread the good news to the ends of the earth.

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith?

www.archgh.org/learnmore

or contact the local parish:

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MY SOUL YEARNS FOR YOU, O GOD
(Ps. 42:2)



Living the Catholic Faith

CATHOLICS, DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Catholics are disciples of Jesus Christ who, by grace, seek to live according to his teaching and example. We are members of local communities that under and with our shepherds, especially our Holy Father, the Pope, make up the Catholic Church. The deepest meaning and purpose of life comes from union with God the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit.



We strive to grow in this union by:

- **putting our faith and trust in God.** This faith and trust is a gift from God. We try to live with this faith at the center of our lives so that we can see the world in the same way God looks upon us: with compassion, justice and joy.
- **gathering for times of prayer and liturgy.** We remember that God is always near, constantly inviting us to a deeper communion that helps us to commit ourselves to the Father's plan for all peoples. Through sacramental grace we grow in holiness.
- **sharing in the mission that Jesus Christ entrusted to his followers:** to spread good news throughout the world and announce that the time of salvation is now. This requires formation in faith and teaching the faith.
- **placing our lives at the service of the world,** especially where there is need, violence or division that makes it difficult to recognize God's goodness and presence in our midst.

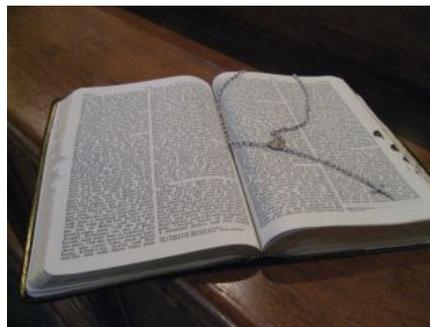
WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Our faith in God comes from **Sacred Scripture**, God's inspired word, and the **living witness of the Apostles** in the Church. These Scriptures and this Tradition reveal the history of God's relationship with the human family and His thirst for our union with Him.

The most fundamental Catholic doctrine is the divine **Trinity** and the mystery of one God in three persons. We believe in **God the Father**, the creator and source of all life, who created us in His own image. We acknowledge that we separated ourselves from God through sin.

We believe that God refused to abandon us and sent **his only Son, Jesus Christ**, the Word made flesh, to save us from sin, reconcile us to Himself and make us a new creation in Christ. We rejoice in Christ who spread the message of God's love and invited others to follow Him. We strive to imitate Christ, who gave up his life on the cross and rose from the dead, victorious over sin and evil.

We believe in the gift of **the Holy Spirit** whom Jesus poured out on his Church. It is in the power of the Holy Spirit that we live our lives in communion with the Father through Jesus Christ, for the Holy Spirit is the "soul" of the Church.



and the saints, we journey to our final heavenly rest.

This communion takes visible form in **the Church, the Body of Christ**. In Christ, we are one. In Christ, we share God's holiness. With Christ, we spread the good news and reach out to all in the world. United with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God,

GOD'S CALL TO HOLINESS

Constantly growing in our communion with God, we take time for prayer as individuals and as a community. Through **prayer and worship**, we concretely experience God's power and presence, his grace, in our lives and realize God always invites us to a deeper union.

God's grace builds upon our human nature and transforms us constantly. The seven **sacraments of the Church** are visible expressions of God's work in our lives and constant reminders of His transcendence. They are grace filled signs of his love and power. These seven sacraments were instituted by Christ.

Through **Baptism** and **Confirmation**, we are incorporated into the mystery of God's own life. We gather weekly to celebrate the **Eucharist** (the Mass), where we hear and reflect on God's Word and where we are intimately joined to Christ in the loving obedience of His sacrifice to the Father and share His Body and Blood.

In the Sacrament of **Holy Orders**, we celebrate God's calling to those who teach, sanctify and shepherd our Church as bishops, priests, and deacons. In the Sacrament of **Marriage**, husband and wife pledge their love to each other as a sign of Christ's love in the world and build up the human and Christian family in their children.

We find God's mercy and compassion in the Sacraments of Healing. Through the Sacrament of **Reconciliation**, God forgives us our sins. In the Sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick**, we see God's healing and comfort in the struggle with sickness and death and learn a deeper meaning of suffering.

