

# 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 Holy Orders. Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops and priests are given a special role in carrying out this mission. They exercise a ministerial priesthood. Deacons also receive a special grace through ordination and are called to assist the ministry of bishops and priests.



# **HOLY ORDERS** *Ordained to Serve, Gather, Transform, and Send*

## **Priests**

- Numbers 3:5-9 – Gather the tribe of Levi so that they can serve Aaron and the priest.
- Numbers 11: 11-12, 14-17, 24-25 – I will give then your spirit so that they may share with you the burden of this people.
- Isaiah 61:1-3 – The Lord has anointed me and sent me to bring Good News to the poor and to give them the oil of gladness.
- Jeremiah 1:4-9 – You will go to all the places to which I will send you.
- Acts 6:1-7 – They chose seven men filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Act 8:26-40 – Beginning with this text of scripture he explained the Good News of Jesus to him.
- Acts 10: 37-43 – We are witnesses to everything Jesus did in the countryside around Judea and in Jerusalem.
- Act 20:17-18,28-32,36 – Keep watch for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to govern the Church of God.
- Romans 12:1-2, 9-18, or 12:1-2, 9-13 – Offer to God your bodies as a living and whole sacrifice, truly pleasing to him.
- Romans 12:4-8 – Our gifts differ according to the grace given to each of us.
- 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-7 – We are teaching Jesus Christ, but we are servants for Jesus' sake.
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-20 – He gave us the ministry of Reconciliation
- Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13 – Unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ.
- Ephesians 5:2, 21-33 or 5:2, 25-32 – This mystery has many implications, and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

## **Deacons**

- 1 Timothy 3:8-13 – They must be conscientious believers in the mystery of faith.

## **Bishops**

- 1 Timothy 4:12-16 – Do not neglect the spiritual gift given you when the elders laid hands on you.
- 2 Timothy 1:6-14 – Rekindle the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you.
- Hebrews 5: 1-10 – Christ was acclaimed by God a high priest of the order of Melchizedek.
- 1 Peter 4:7-11 – As good stewards be responsible for the different graces of God.
- 1 Peter 5: 1-4 – Be shepherds of the flock of God which is entrusted to you.
- Matthew 5:13-16 – You are the light of the world
- Matthew 9: 35-38 – Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to the harvest.
- Matthew 10: 1-5 – Proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand.
- Matthew 16: 24-27 – “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”
- Matthew 20:25-28 – Jesus chose twelve apostles and sent them to preach.
- Luke 10: 1-9 – The harvest is rich but the laborers are few.
- Luke 12: 35-44 – Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.
- Luke 22: 14-20, 24-30 – Do this in memory of me. I come among you as one who serves.
- John 10:11-16 – The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.
- John 12:24-26 If a man serves me, he must follow me.
- John 15: 9-17 – I shall not call you servants; you are my friends.
- John 17:6, 14-19 – For them I consecrated myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.
- John 20: 19-23 – As the Father has sent me, I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.
- John 21:15-17 – Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.