

September Parent Guide for Children and Youth

Youth Group Topics

Economy of Salvation

September 23

"The Father always intended to bestow every blessing on us through His Beloved Son, who would make it possible for us to become His family. The Holy Spirit is poured out on us to make this inheritance ours even now."



Why the liturgy?

Catechism of the Catholic Church **1066**

In the Symbol of the faith the Church confesses the mystery of the Holy Trinity and of the plan of God's "good pleasure" for all creation: the Father accomplishes the "mystery of his will" by giving his beloved Son and his Holy Spirit for the salvation of the world and for the glory of his name.¹

Such is the mystery of Christ, revealed and fulfilled in history according to the wisely ordered plan that St. Paul calls the "plan of the mystery"² and the patristic tradition will call the "economy of the Word incarnate" or the "**economy of salvation**."

Questions to ask you kids...

What is an economy?

In Catholic teaching, "economy" (from the Greek *oikonomia*, meaning "house management" or "stewardship") has two main meanings: the Economy of Salvation (God's plan to save humanity) and the material economy (how human society manages resources according to moral law)

What does the Church mean by Salvation?

In the Catholic Church, salvation is the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship and eternal union with God through Jesus Christ.

A Lifelong Process

- **Not a one-time event:** Catholics do not view salvation as a single moment. It is a lifelong journey of growing closer to God.
- **Justification:** This is the act where God frees a person from sin and makes them holy from the inside out.
- **Sanctification:** This is the ongoing daily process of living a holy life and becoming more like Christ through prayer, and living the moral life.

Are you saved? What do we mean by that?

When Catholics answer the question "*Are you saved?*", the traditional response is:

"I have been saved, I am being saved, and I hope to be saved."

What Do These Three Parts Mean?

"I have been saved" (Past Event)

- It starts with **baptism** and God's grace.
- Jesus Christ won salvation for all humanity through His death and resurrection.
- Through baptism, original sin is washed away, and a person is united with Christ and brought into His Church. You cannot earn this first step; it is a free gift from God.

"I am being saved" (Present Process)

- Salvation is lived out day by day.
- Catholics cooperate with God's grace through **faith working through love** (Galatians 5:6), receiving the **sacraments** (like the Eucharist and Reconciliation), praying, and doing good works.
- Good works do not "buy" or earn heaven; instead, they are the natural fruit and proof of a living, active faith.

"I hope to be saved" (Future Goal)

- Catholics do not believe in "once saved, always saved" (the idea that a person can never lose their salvation no matter what they do).
- Because humans have free will, a person can turn away from God through serious (**mortal**) sin.
- Salvation reaches its completion when a person perseveres in God's grace until the end of their life.

Liturgy and Liturgical Living

September 30

"In the holy liturgy, the Father makes possible our present participation in the work of the Trinity. Our greatest work in this life is to offer acceptable worship through Christ and become 'other Christs' in the world."

Liturgy as source of life

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1071 As the work of Christ liturgy is also an action of his *Church*. It makes the Church present and manifests her as the visible sign of the communion in Christ between God and men. It engages the faithful in the new life of the community and involves the "conscious, active, and fruitful participation" of everyone.⁹

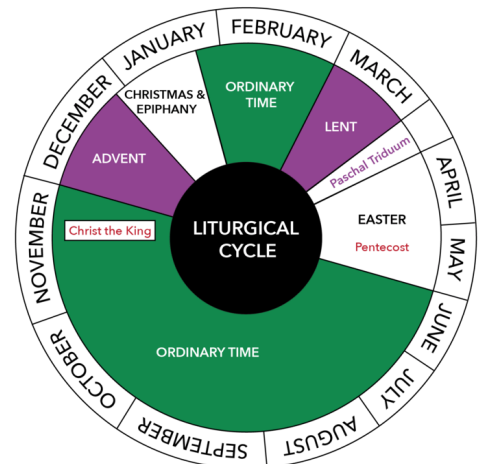
1072 "The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church";¹⁰ it must be preceded by evangelization, faith, and conversion. It can then produce its fruits in the lives of the faithful: new life in the Spirit, involvement in the mission of the Church, and service to her unity.

Questions to ask you kids...

What is the Liturgical Calendar and why do we have it?

The Liturgical Calendar (or Church Year) is the annual cycle of seasons and feast days that guides the Catholic Church through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Unlike the standard civil calendar that starts on January 1st, the Catholic Church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent (late November or early December) and ends on the Feast of Christ the King in late November.



*What are some of the traditions that we have as a family that we live liturgically?
Christmas, Easter, Advent, Lent?*

How could we live more liturgically?