



# National *Eucharistic* Revival



## **EUCHARIST: THE MOST AMAZING GIFT** November 5, 2022



Joe Paprocki, DMin



# National *Eucharistic* Revival



When we treasure a relationship, we strive to keep it “alive.”

One of the ways we do that is by celebrating the relationship in order to rekindle the flame that sparked the beginning of the relationship.



# National *Eucharistic* Revival

## Eucharistic Amazement





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## **Eucharistic Amazement**





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## **Eucharistic Amazement**





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“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (Jn 6)



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i'm so hungry...



Any discussion of food and drink is predicated on the notion that people experience hunger and thirst!



*"Everybody's got a hungry heart."*



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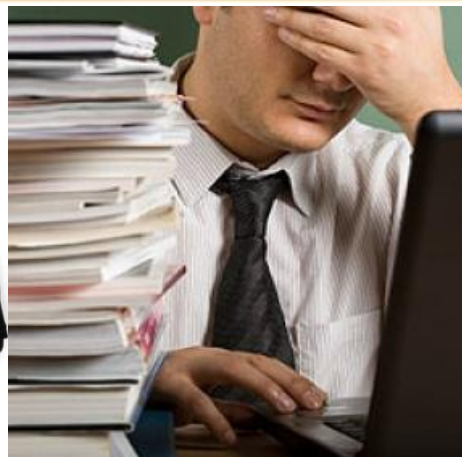
**Hunger: a strong desire;  
a craving; a need**

When you think of those you teach,  
what “hungers” do they have?





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**At our deepest level, we  
are incapable of  
sustaining ourselves!**



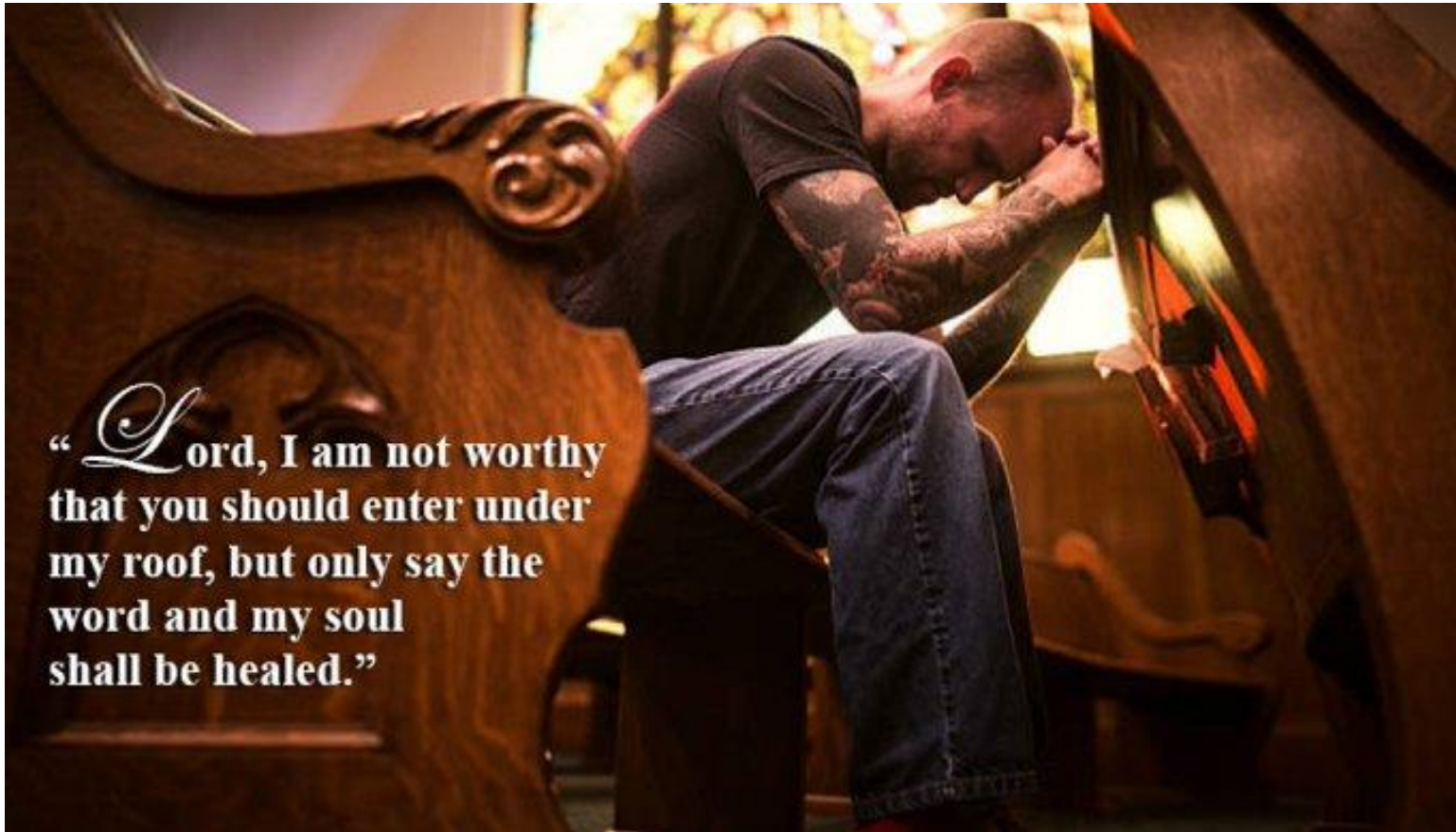
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1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.



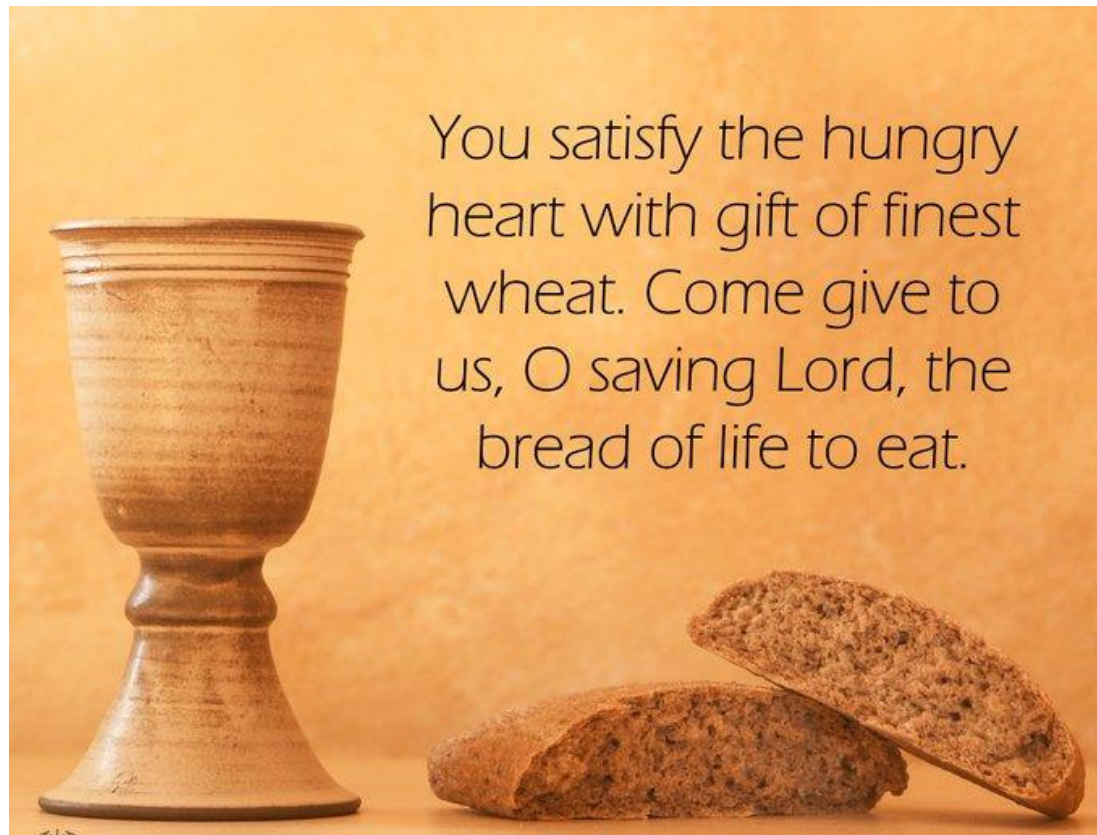
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A photograph of a man with tattoos, wearing a dark t-shirt and blue jeans, kneeling in prayer in a church. He is leaning forward with his head resting on his hands, looking down. The background shows the ornate wooden interior of a church, including a large, carved wooden structure in the foreground.

**“Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under  
my roof, but only say the  
word and my soul  
shall be healed.”**



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You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.



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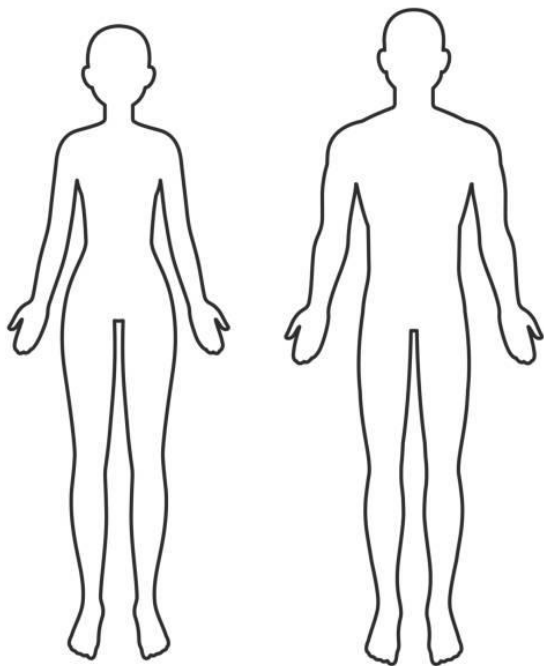
## **REAL PRESENCE**

Jesus Christ is wholly present – body, blood, soul, and divinity – under the appearance of bread and wine.



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## REAL PRESENCE



**BODY** - Properly speaking the Hebrew has no term for “body.”

One does not “have” a body; one **IS** a body (no separation between body and soul)

Thus, to refer to one’s “body” is to refer to one’s “being.”



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## REAL PRESENCE



**BLOOD** – The Jewish understanding of “blood” is the equivalent of “life” or “life-force.”

Blood was not just seen as necessary for life; it was seen as one’s “life” and life comes from/belongs to God.





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## REAL PRESENCE



Thus, to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus is to receive the very BEING and the very LIFE-FORCE of Jesus Christ!



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**Sacraments are both FORMATIVE and EXPRESSIVE**



To receive the Body of Christ is to express **unity/solidarity/communion** with God and others. To receive the Blood of Christ (drink from the Cup) is to express **commitment to the mission** of the Church.



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**The celebration of the Eucharist, like all the sacraments, involves symbolic action. All symbolic actions invoke a narrative (tell a story).**





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**Every symbolic action invokes a narrative. The symbolic actions of the Sacraments – including the Eucharist – invoke a narrative of...**



**Rescue**



**Restoration**



**Reassurance**



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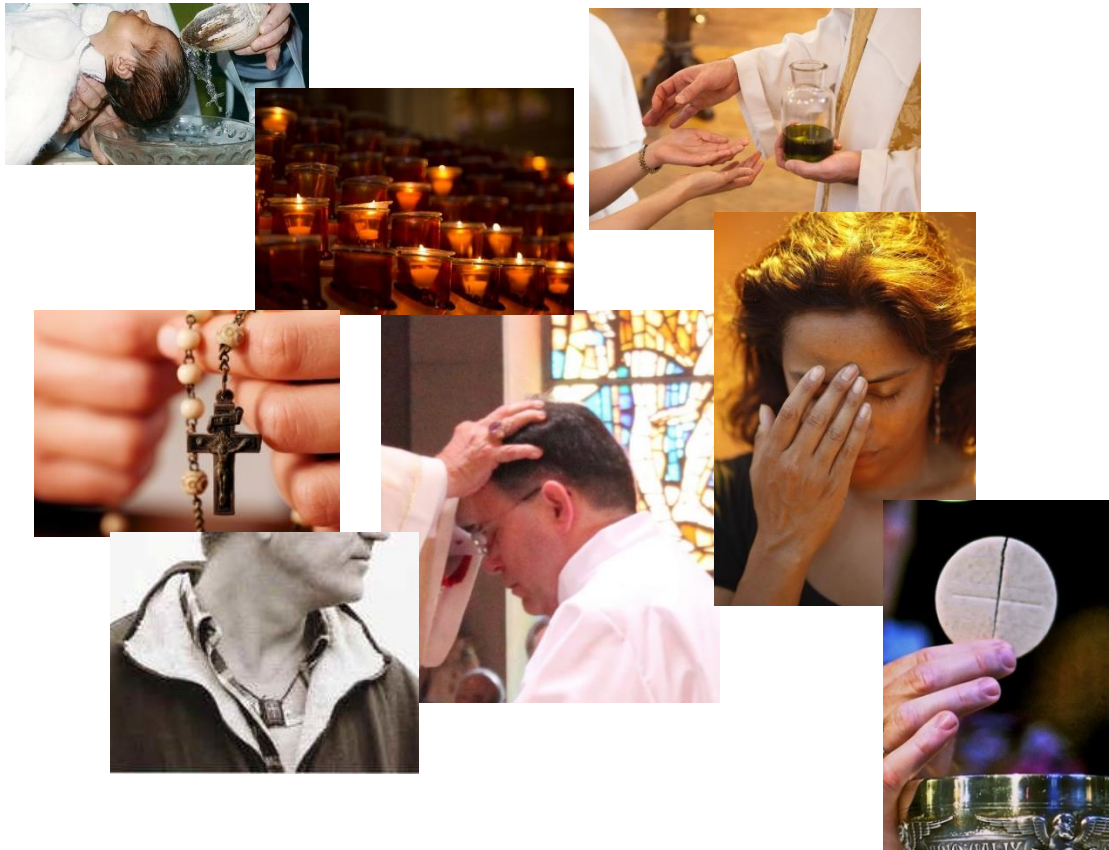
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**The celebration of the Eucharist involves a “language of mystery”**





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## Sacred Space



In the Old Testament, we read of how ordinary people would mark a space where they encountered God by building an altar. Likewise, in the New Testament, Jesus sent his disciples ahead of him to prepare a space for the Last Supper.





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## Sacred Space





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## Sacred Space





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## Music & Singing



Often, in Scripture, people mark their encounters with God by breaking into song. After the Last Supper, Jesus and the Apostles “sang a hymn” before Jesus went out into the Garden.



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## Silence/Quiet



In Scripture, when people encountered God, some were rendered silent (such as Elijah). Silence acknowledges and raises the profundity of any experience and is a proper way of honoring the profundity of God's presence.



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## Silence/Quiet







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## Silence/Quiet





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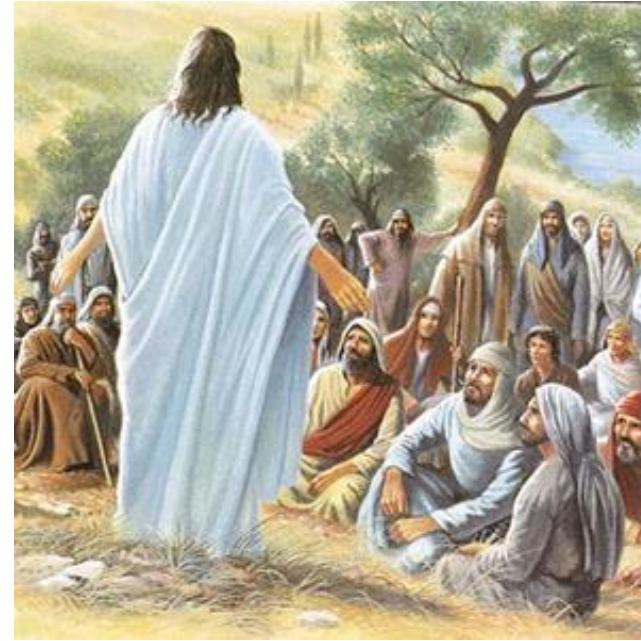
## Silence/Quiet





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## Storytelling



Stories were one of the most powerful mechanisms that Jesus relied on to proclaim the Kingdom of God.



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## Storytelling





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## Storytelling



- ▶ Scripture stories
- ▶ Stories of the lives of the saints
- ▶ Stories of our own journey



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## Movement & gesture



In Scripture, when people encounter the Divine, they bow, fall on their face, dance, hide their face, fall to their knees, raise their hands, beat their breast, and so on. (Example of David dancing)



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## Movement & gesture





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## Movement & gesture







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## Sign & symbol



The Scriptures are “awash” with sign, symbols, and sacred objects



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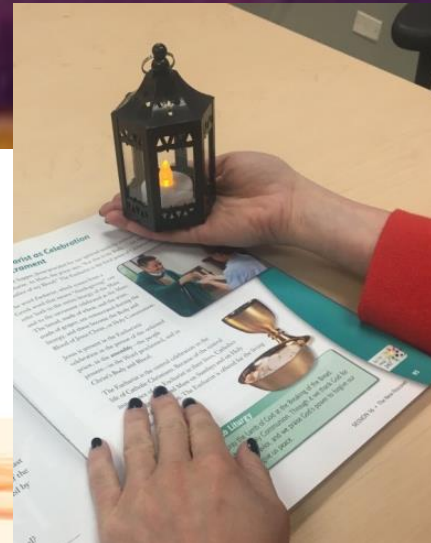
## Sign & symbol





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## Sign & symbol





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## Sign & symbol





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## Ritual



In Scripture, we learn of the institution of the Passover ritual to make present God's saving action in the Exodus. It was this ritual that Jesus used to institute the Eucharist which we continue to celebrate as our central act of worship.



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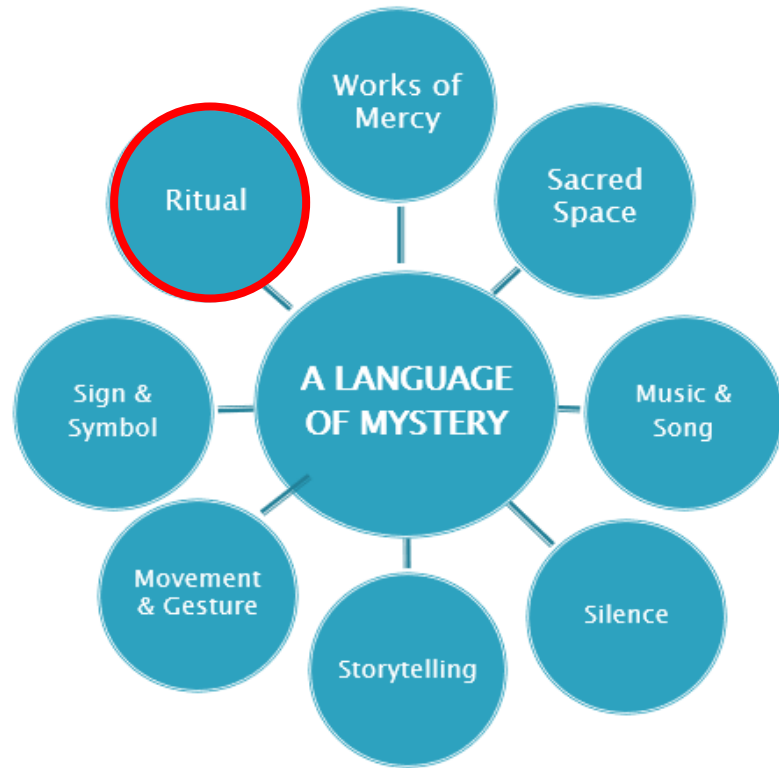
## Ritual





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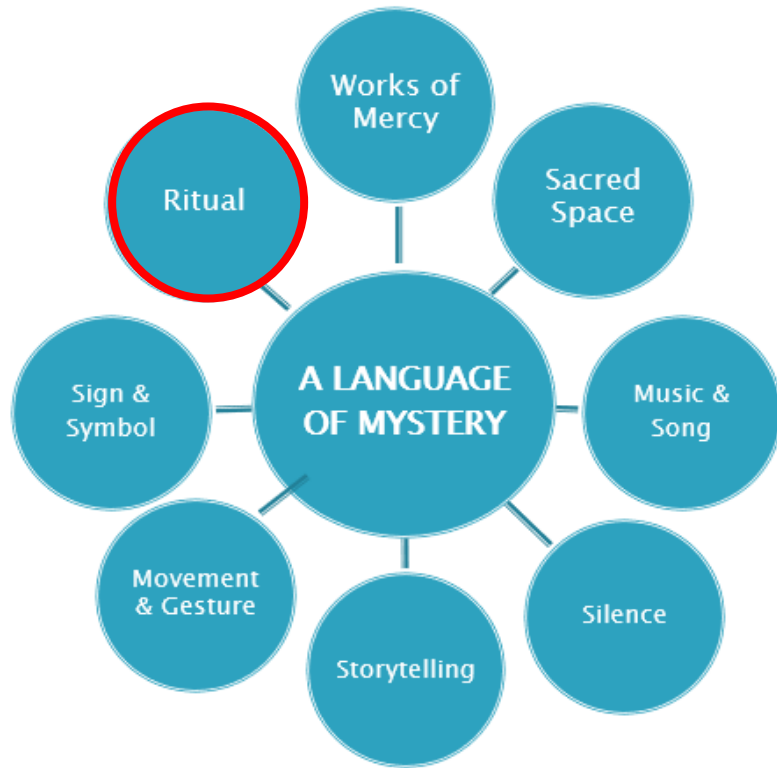
## Ritual





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## Ritual

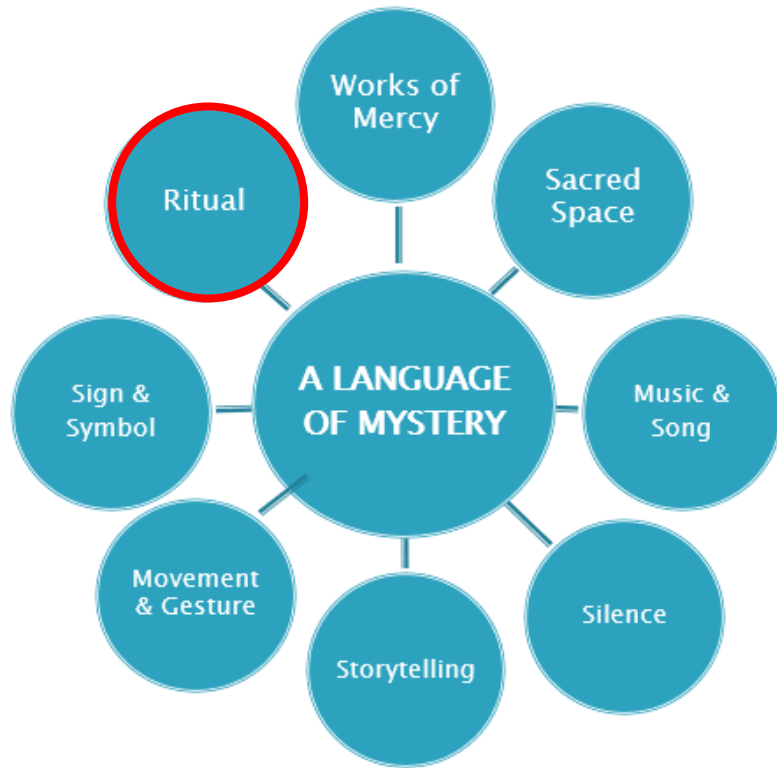






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## Ritual

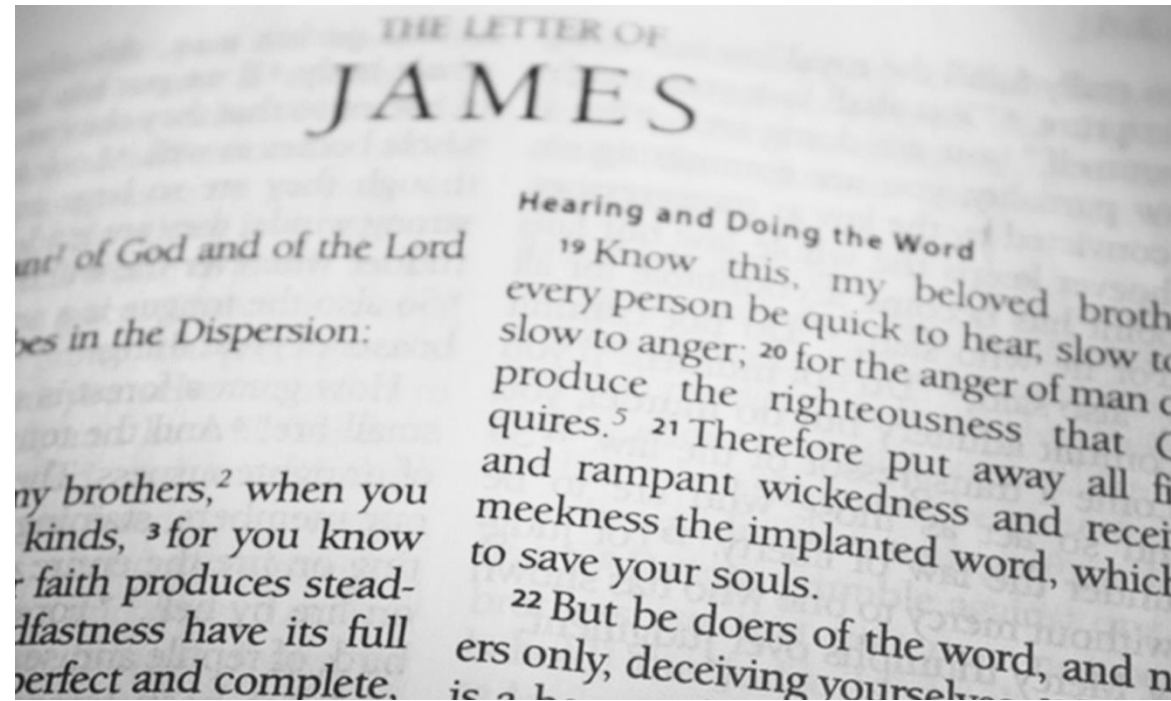
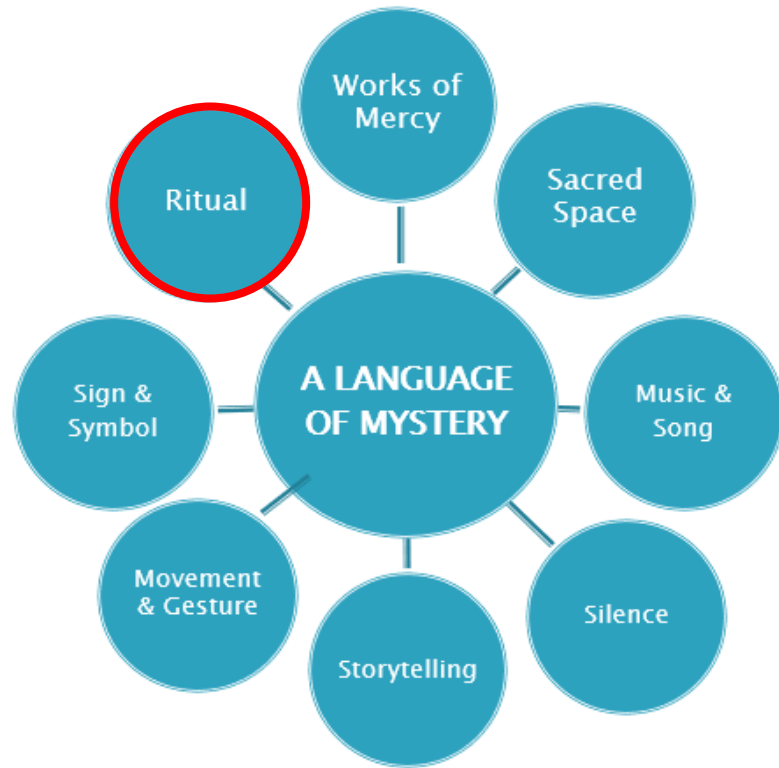


- Dt 6:4 – Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, **the Lord alone.**
- Psalm 27:1 – The Lord is my light and my salvation; **whom shall I fear?** The Lord is the stronghold of my life; **of whom shall I be afraid?**
- Psalm 119:105 – Your word is a lamp to my feet **and a light to my path**
- Psalm 121:1-2 – My help comes from the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.**
- John 1:14 – The Word became flesh **and made his dwelling among us.**
- Phil 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always; **again I say, Rejoice.**
- Liturgy of the Hours: O God, come to my assistance. **O Lord, make haste to help me.**



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## Works of Mercy



Scripture tells us that faith without works is dead.



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## Works of Mercy





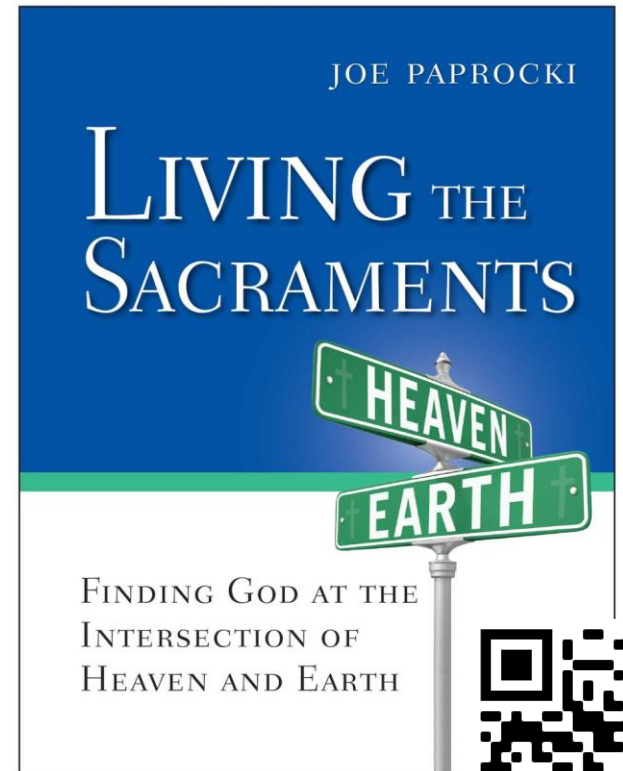
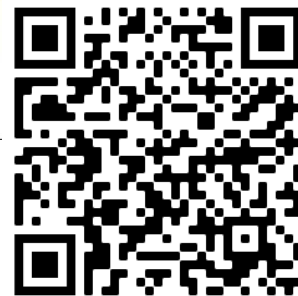
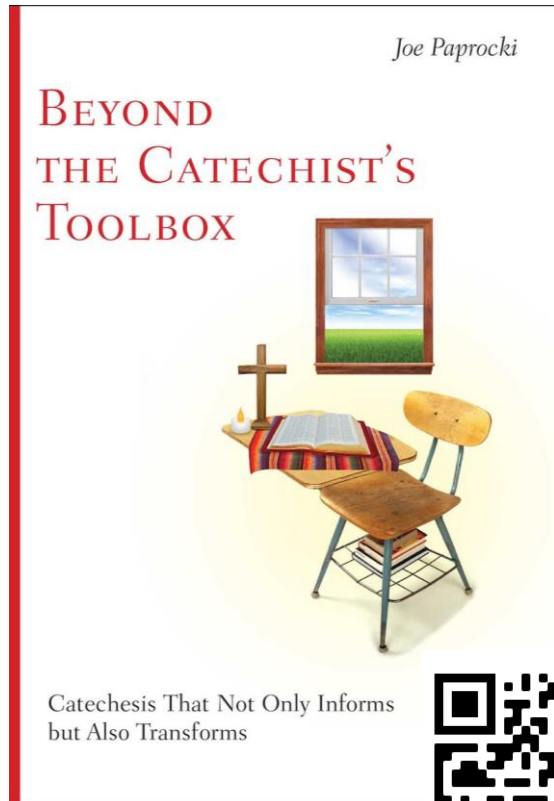
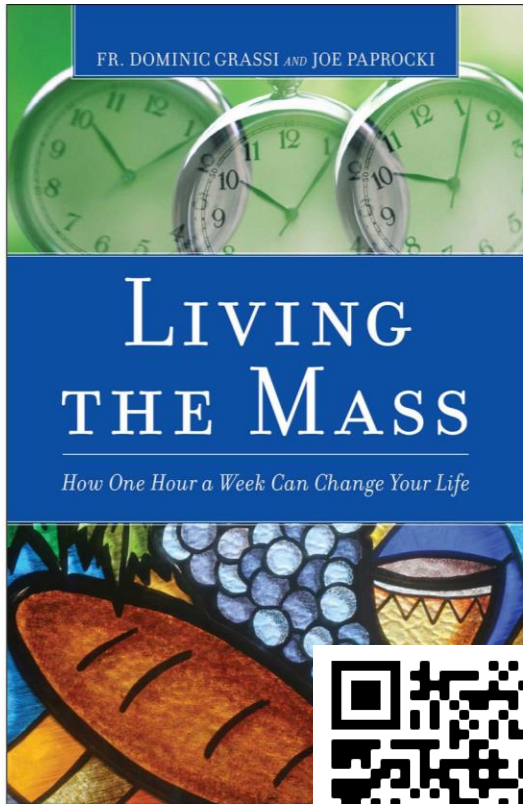
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## Works of Mercy





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## Thank You!

The Archdiocese of New York is served by:



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