



Sacred Heart

C a t h o l i c C h u r c h

4087 West Broadway • Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Phone: 763-537-4561

Formed in His Heart, Serving with His Heart, Giving From His Heart

Saturday—Lord's Day Vigil

4:00 PM Mass of Anticipation

Sunday— The Lord's Day

8:00 AM Mass - In Church

10:00 AM Mass - In Church

11:40 AM Latin Mass - In Church

Daily Mass Times

Monday:

8:00 AM Communion Service
followed by Lauds/Morning Prayer

Tuesday — Saturday:

8:00 AM Mass
followed by Lauds/Morning Prayer

Holy Day Mass Times

Consult the bulletin

Penance and Reconciliation

Tuesday — Saturday Morning:

7:40 — 7:55 AM

Saturday Afternoon:

3:00 — 3:45 PM

Or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

The Sacred Heart Chapel will be open for personal prayer and adoration before the monstrance on Thursdays from 9AM-8:30PM

Parish Office Hours

Monday 8:30 AM — 2:30 PM

Tues.-Thurs. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Friday 8:30 AM-Noon

Parish Web Site

www.shrmn.org

Parish Phone: 763-537-4561

Sacred Heart Catholic School

Daycare, Pre-K through 8th grade
4050 Hubbard Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

School Web Site

sacredheartsschoolrobbinsdale.org

School Phone: 763-537-1329

October 23, 2022



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“But the tax collector stood off at a distance...and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” - Lk 18:13a, 13c-14

Parish Directory

Phone: 763-537-4561
 General Email: contact@shrmn.org

Worship

Priest, Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen.....ext. 6240
fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org 763-285-6240
 Deacon, Dr. James Ramsey.....ext. 6244
jramsey@shrmn.org 763-285-6244
 Music, Jamie Schmidtext. 6287
jshmidt@shrmn.org 763-285-6287

Faith Formation

Director of Adult Faith Formation
 Bunny Brouillard.....ext. 6247
bbrouillard@shrmn.org 763-285-6247
 Youth & Young Adult Ministry
 Matthew Kruc.....ext. 6243
mkruc@shrmn.org 763-285-6243
 Faith Formation Associate
 Morgan Leisgang.....ext. 6246
mleisgang@shrmn.org 763-2856246

Pastoral Care

Priest, Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen.....ext. 6240
fr.bpedersen@shrmn.org 763-285-6240
 Deacon, Dr. James Ramsey.....ext. 6244
jramsey@shrmn.org 763-285-6244

Parish Administration

Bus. Admin., Mary Daugherty.....ext. 6241
mdaugherty@shrmn.org 763-285-6241
 Bookkeeper, Diane Yazvec.....ext. 6242
dyazvec@shrmn.org 763-285-6242
 Facility Manager and Maintenance
 Mark Sazama.....ext. 6245
msazama@shrmn.org 763-285-6245
 Admin. Asst. Facility Scheduling, Office
 Darlene Doranext. 6248
ddoran@shrmn.org 763-285-6248
 Sacramental Records
 Safe Environment Coordinator
 Bunny Brouillard.....ext. 6247
bbrouillard@shrmn.org 763-285-6247

School

Main Office: 763-537-1329
 Principal, Karen Bursey.....ext. 6255
kbursey@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org
 Advancement, Admin. Asst.
 Zack Fimonext. 6256
zfimon@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org
 Admin. Asst. Records,
 Sarah Bowback.....ext. 6257
sbowback@sacredheartschoolrobbinsdale.org

The Church of the Sacred Heart is served by the clergy of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Priest Staff: Fr. Bryan J.B. Pedersen

Deacon: Dr. James Ramsey

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

There is a thing called “false piety.” It is when we wear a religious disguise of devotion, attend to our obligations, and outwardly abide by rules while being inwardly unkind, uncharitable, and exclusive. Wearing the right clothes, saying the proper prayers, being in sacred places, and reading devotional books, those exhibiting false piety craftily try to control others using the pretense of love. The Pharisees, consistently criticized by Jesus, are prime examples. Thinking they are superior to others, they foolishly believe they are better positioned with God and more worthy of God’s attention. Forming an exclusive “club,” they divide things between “mine” and “yours” and “us” and “them.” They quickly criticize and point out flaws and errors in rituals and thinking. Conformity becomes the first commandment and control is the game’s name.

The requirements for “club membership” are clear: do what we do, think what we think, and believe what we believe. Attempting to control others using the lure of “status” or “salvation,” they seduce others into thinking that conformity is the only way to holiness. Clinging to “my beliefs,” “my parish,” “my way of thinking,” they fail to see the more significant relationship with God that is veiled in all of these superficial rules and practices. Shallow, hollow, and empty vessels, they gloss over the more important virtues of justice, mercy, faithfulness, and forgiveness. Sparkling clean on the outside, but dirty on the inside. Spiritual arrogance is a grave sin. It alienates and hurts the little ones, those considered “least” in the kingdom.

God knows no favorites. Everyone belongs regardless of whether you are an official, bona fide member. Sometimes membership may be a detriment to actually living the Gospel if you’re joining the team for the wrong reasons. The genuinely humble ones may not appear to be overly “pious.” They may not know all of the proper prayers or abide by all of the correct rituals, but they know that they are broken and need mercy. There is no shame in being broken. In fact, many things need to be broken in order to be what they truly are! There is a reason Jesus told us to pray in private. It’s only between you and God. It is nobody else’s business.

Appointed Sunday Readings**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time-10/23/2022**

First Reading: The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds. (Sir 35:21)

Psalm: The Lord hears the cry of the poor. (Ps 34)

Second Reading : From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance. (2 Tm 4:8)

Gospel: "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 18:14)

Latin Mass Sunday Readings**20th Sunday after Pentecost**

Epistle: Brethren: See how you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Eph. 5:15-21)

Gradual: The eyes of all hope in Thee, O Lord; and Thou givest them meat in due season. (Ps.144:15,16)

Gospel: At that time, there was a certain ruler whose son was sick at Capernaum. (John 4:46-53)

Appointed Daily Readings**Monday, Oct. 24—Saturday, Oct. 29**

Monday: Eph 4:32—5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 13:22-30

Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Lk 13:31-35

Friday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11

Prayers of the Faithful**Please remember in your prayers:**

Those Who Are Ill: Rose Anne Bengtson

With Chronic Health Concerns:

Tom Ambrose, Brady Swenson, Mary Jo Faustgen, Andrea DeOtis, Medard Keisershot, Cody Binstock, Carol Borman, Delia Roca, Bruce Lindquist, David LaSota

Those Serving In Our Armed Forces:

Sam Dahlgren-Castilla, Justin Rathbun, Liam Gregory, Jordan Reese, Andrew Gladitsch, Cathal & Cormac O'Connor, Lisette Knaeble, Zachary Wilhelmi, Lily Wilson

Those Who Have Died Recently:**Administration****Stewardship-Your Commitment is Vital !**

Collections for October 8-9, 2022 (week 15)	Dollars	# Donors
Sunday Envelope Collections	\$ 9,152.00	61
Electronic Donations	\$ 295.53	11
Plate (non envelope) Collections	\$ 854.00	
Total Collections for week 15	\$10,301.53	72

Year-to-date Sunday Collections

	This Year	Last Year	(Behind)
Actual versus last year October 9, 2022 (week 15)	\$158,502	\$155,798	\$2,704

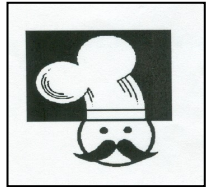
	This Year	Budget	(Behind)
Actual versus Budget October 9, 2022 (week 15)	\$158,502	\$156,532	\$1,970

Home For Sale**Sacred Heart Property – 4038 Hubbard Ave No**

Due to the closure of our Sacred Heart Childcare Toddler Program this past January, the property located at 4038 Hubbard Ave. no longer fulfills a need at Sacred Heart. After consultation with the Trustees, Pastoral and Finance Councils, this property will be available for sale. It is a single family residential dwelling with 2-bedrooms, 1-bath, kitchen, living room, dining room, basement and detached 2-car garage. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Mostaccioli Dinner

It's October, and that means it will soon be time for our Men's Club annual Mostaccioli Dinner. The Sacred Heart Men's Club has put on a tasty dinner which helps us to support our parish, school, and charities in our community.



- Event Details

- *Date -- Saturday, October 29

- *Location -- Gymnasium, Sacred Heart Church/School

- *Time -- 4:00 - 7:00 PM

- *Price - \$12 (\$6 for kids 10 and under)

- *What it includes -- Mostaccioli (all you can eat!), bread, salad, water/lemonade/coffee, and dessert. Wine is available for an extra cost.

- Tickets were mailed We need each of you to sell your tickets -- whether you buy them yourselves, sell them to friends, or invite others on your dime, we're looking to have a full dining room. Tickets will also be available at the front door.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

To be humble means to see ourselves as we are. It comes with the recognition that we are never perfect, better than another, or free of sin. The humble person knows their faults and failings as well as their successes and triumphs. They also realize that they are nothing without God, especially God's mercy. The humble one knows who they are, who they can be, and how they have fallen short. Being desperately in love with God, they know how they have sometimes given in to their desires rather than God's will, almost with a sense of embarrassment. Being justified in our relationship with God is not about a list of the good things we do and the bad things we don't. We are vindicated when we realize how totally dependent we are upon God's gratuitous, abundant, and unconditional love. It is a gift we often take for granted and is often unappreciated.

Sacred Heart Catholic School



Wreath Sales---Orders Due October 25th

Our students are selling Christmas wreaths, swags, pine boughs and other holiday decorations. While the Wreath campaign falls right on the heels of Marathon, we're pretty certain you understand the value of wreath sales at this time.

Forms are available at the parish reception desk or school office. Delivery is before Thanksgiving.

7th Graders Selling Poinsettias-Orders due November 11

Our 7th graders are selling poinsettias for their 8th grade trip next year. Five varieties (red, pink, white, winter rose, and marble) are available in three different sizes (4.5, 6.5 and 8 inches) Delivery will be December 1st.

Save the date for our gala---Friday, February 10th.



Grandparents Day—Friday, November 11

All school parents received an electronic invitation to attend Grandparent/Special Person Day scheduled for November 11th. Families will reach out to you to attend our event. We will begin with mass at 8:00 a.m. followed by class visits, refreshments and a program.

Like our Facebook Page - [Sacred Heart Catholic School Robbinsdale, MN Alumni/Parent](https://www.facebook.com/SHCSRobbinsdale)
[http://www.facebook.com/SHCSRobbinsdale](https://www.facebook.com/SHCSRobbinsdale)

Follow us on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SHCSRobbinsdal1>

Open Positions at Sacred Heart School

Sacred Heart Catholic School is looking for a recess supervisor M-F from 10:45-12:15.

The supervisor will observe children playing, help children as needed, and monitor safety. Please contact Karen Burse for more information. kburse@shcsr.org

Youth Ministry

BUY COFFEE-SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

WE HAVE A NEW SHIPMENT OF COFFEE FOR SALE FROM OUR YOUTH GROUP. MEDIUM ROAST-WHOLE BEAN, OR GROUND BAGS OF COFFEE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE PARISH OFFICE. \$13.00 A BAG. THANK YOU.



To Join Sacred Heart Parish

If you are new to our community, or have been attending Mass here but have not yet joined Sacred Heart call 763-537-4561 or stop in the parish office to register.

Sacrament of Initiation — RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

To join the Catholic Church call Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants and Children (RCIC)

Baptism for Infants and young Children is celebrated on the first & third Sundays of the month at 1 PM. Pre-Baptism Class meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. To make arrangements call Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Confirmation

If you are in High School or an Adult who has yet to receive Confirmation contact Matt Kruc or Bunny Brouillard in the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

If you or your child have not yet made your First Holy Communion contact Bunny Brouillard. If you are shut in and would like to receive Holy Communion contact Deacon Ramsey to make arrangements

Sacrament of Penance

See the schedule for confessions or contact Fr. Pedersen to make an appointment. To receive instruction on making a first confession contact the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Anointing

To make arrangements to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or Last Rites contact the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Marriage

Registered Parishioners should call Father Pedersen or Deacon Ramsey at least 8 months in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Holy Orders

Catholic Men contact Fr. Pedersen or Deacon Ramsey for more information on joining the Diaconate or Priesthood.

Sunday School

Open to children ages 3 years through Kindergarten. Meets during the 10 AM Mass October through April. Please call Morgan Leisgang in the Parish Office.

Religious Education

For students grades 1—10. Meets Wed. evening 6:30pm—7:45pm, Oct. through April. Please call Morgan Leisgang or Matt Kruc in the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

****This Schedule is subject to change****

October

Sun. 23	8:00 AM	Ken Lehn+
	10:00 AM	Parishioners
Latin	11:35 AM	Celebrant's Intention
Mon. 24	8:00 AM	Communion Service
Tues. 25	8:00 AM	Dorothy Hiltner+
Wed. 26	8:00 AM	Ed & Lois Zegar+
Thu. 27	8:00 AM	Mary Jo Blonigan+
Fri. 28	8:00 AM	Margaret Pendzimas+
Sat. 29	8:00 AM	Carol Hanson+
	4:00 PM	Philip Andrzejek+
Sun. 30	8:00 AM	Erma Richard Johnson+
	10:00 AM	Parishioners
Latin	11:35 AM	Celebrant's Intention

Chapel Open for Prayer:

- Monday: 8:30am-2:30pm
- Tues.-Wed.:8:30am-4:30pm
- Friday: 8:30am-Noon

Confessions

Daily Tuesday-Saturday 7:40-7:55a.m.
Saturdays 3:00-3:45pm

Thursday Eucharistic Adoration

9:00am-8:30pm

Parish Prayer Line

To be placed on the prayer line call the Parish Office 763-537-4561. You can also send in your request via e-mail: cshadmin@shrmn.org



Faith Formation



**The Bible Timeline:
The Story of Salvation
Developed by Jeff Cavins**

From the creation of the world to the last-day events of Revelation, the *timeline* is a comprehensive guide to major *Bible* events, characters, and prophecies.

The Bible Timeline® study program takes you on a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and will give you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven throughout Scripture.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS TUESDAY OCTOBER 25

Program will start on Tuesday November 8. 1:00pm or 7:00pm Sessions.

Registration forms can be found at the Informational Kiosk in the Parish Commons.

Questions call Bunny: Direct Line: 763-285-6247 contact@shrmn.org

Pre-Baptism Classes



PRE-BAPTISM CLASSES

Pre-Baptism Classes are offered at Sacred Heart on the Second Tuesday of the month. All parents are required to attend a pre-baptism class before the Baptism of their first child or if it has been over three years since they last attended a pre-baptism class. Our next scheduled session is **Tuesday November 8 at 7pm** in the Activities Building. If you plan to attend this session, please call the Parish Office 763-537-4561.

Music Ministry



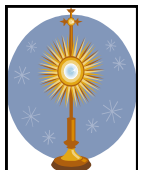
Due to MEA last week, the Sacred Heart Choir and Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals next week, **Thursday Oct. 27th**.

Jamie will be visiting the Sacred Heart School classrooms with Children's Choir information on Wednesday, Oct. 26th and we will begin rehearsals in November.

Please contact Jamie Schmidt, Director of Sacred Music at jschmidt@shrmn.org if you are interested in joining the Handbell Choir or the Sacred Heart Choir.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thank you to all our COMMITTED ADORERS and to everyone who regularly attend Adoration every Thursday. We are always looking for additional adorers for each hour. If you would like to be a Adorer for any of the time slots when our regular volunteers cannot be present on Thursday or would like to commit to a regular hour of adoration please call Bunny in the Parish Office 763-537-4561 Hours of Adoration are after the 8 AM Mass to 8:30 PM Ending with Benediction.



Respect Life Ministry



Correction HELP is NEEDED

Sunday Oct. 23, 2022 11:05am, right after 10am Mass to set up the pink & blue flags

For the "Cemetery of the Innocents" at Sacred Heart on West Broadway to commemorate **Respect Life Month**
Many hands make light work, one hour or less.

Wear gloves.

In spite of the Supreme Court Dobbs Decision, babies are still being aborted in Minnesota!!!
We must continue to defend life from conception to natural death.

40 Days for Life Twin Cities

Wed., Sept. 28 - Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022

What HOUR will you pray?



Planned Parenthood, 671 Vandalia St., St. Paul, MN 55114

Closing Vigil is at 3pm on Sunday, November 6, 2022

To carpool call Carol at 612-242-5807.

Pro-Life Action Ministries invites all to join us in this international movement of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach to end abortion.

Spiritual Adoption



MONTH SEVEN – Developing Baby Spiritual Adoption Program

You are in the home stretch with your spiritually adopted baby. Beginning this month the baby uses all four senses. He can see, hear, taste, touch, cough, yawn and hiccup. He now recognizes his mother's voice. During this time he will also receive antibodies from his mother protecting him from a wide variety of diseases.

Say the following daily prayer for a period of nine months.

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby's name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."

Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 23–30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Trad.

Coffee & Donuts

7:30 AM Rosary Prayed
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
10:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
11:40 AM Latin Mass: Fr. Pedersen

Monday, October 24–St. Anthony Mary Claret 1870, St. Raphael the Archangel, Trad.

7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
8:00 AM Communion Service
Morning Prayer

Tuesday, October 25– The 40 Martyrs of England & Wales 16th C.; Sts. Chrysanthus & Daria 4th C., Trad.

7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
Morning Prayer to follow Ma

Wednesday, October 26–St. Evaristus 107, Trad.

7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
Morning Prayer to follow Mass
9:00 AM Home Communion

Thursday, October 27– St. Frumentius 380, Hist.

7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
Morning Prayer to follow Mass
Adoration following Mass till 8:30 PM

Friday, October 28– Sts. Simon & Jude 1st C.

7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
Morning Prayer to follow Mass

Saturday, October 29– St. Narcissus 222, Hist.

7:35 AM Rosary Prayed
7:40 AM Confessions till 7:55 AM
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
3:00 PM Confessions till 3:45 PM
4:00 PM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
4:00 PM Mostaccioli Dinner till 7:00PM

Sunday, October 30–31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Trad.; Feast of Christ the King, Trad.

7:30 AM Rosary Prayed
8:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
10:00 AM Mass: Fr. Pedersen
11:40 AM Latin Mass: Fr. Pedersen

Like and Follow the Church of the Sacred Heart on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/shrobbinsdale/>

Appalachia Mission Program



Appalachia Mission Program -2022

Another year has passed and it is time to respond to the Appalachian Christmas Program. Sacred Heart has been so blessed with your generosity this past year. We will continue to help stock their "Christmas Tree Store." The people of Kentucky really appreciate all of the wonderful gifts that you give and we send. The gifts are not wrapped so a family member can choose the gifts that

meet their family needs. Please be generous as possible for many families these are the only gifts they receive for Christmas. **All gifts can be dropped off between Monday, October 3 through Wednesday, October 26. Drop-Off Boxes located in Church by Front Doors and by Reception Desk.**

This year we are asking for Monetary Donations to purchase Flannel shirts, Jackets and Sweaters for Sacred Heart to donate to Appalachia.

Infants to 1 year of age: Diapers, Powder, Lotion, Blankets, Shirts, Sleepers, Rattles Crib Mobiles, Teethers and other baby toys.

Toddlers: Pull toys, Blocks, Soft toys, Balls, Cars & Trucks, Dolls (War toys are dangerous toys and are discouraged)'

Ages 6-12: Games, Cars & Trucks, Marbles, Jacks, Jump Ropes, Dolls, Markers, Coloring Books & Crayons, Basic School Supplies, Socks & Underwear

(No articles that can be damaged by freezing & avoid heavy items like canned goods, etc.)

Age 12 to 16 & Teenagers: Cosmetics, Jewelry, Sports equipment, Radios, Batteries Watches, Music Boxes, Purses, Wallets, Belts, Large Sweatshirts, Fishing Equipment Toiletries, Hunting Clothes, Camouflage vests, Socks & Underwear.

For Adults: Powder, Lotion, Slippers, Socks, Billfolds, Jewelry, Shirts, Knee Highs Purses, Nail Clippers, Scarves, Blankets & Bedding, Sweatshirts, Towels , Kitchen items, Socks & Underwear.

N.E.A.R.

- **Robbinsdale Give & Get Event: 10-27-22** – A fun event for the kids and families of Robbinsdale. Scheduled for Thursday, October 27th from 4pm-6pm and takes place along the sidewalks of West Broadway between 41st and 42nd Avenues. NEAR will be there to show our support for the community, touch base with the expected 400 kids and their families and hand out candy.

- **2022 Cooper Art & Craft Fair: 10-29-22** - A portion of the New Hope Women of Today profits from this event supports many outreach programs including the NEAR Food Shelf. Empty Bowls will also have a booth at the craft fair. Please consider stopping by and making a donation and picking out a bowl. A portion of the donations will be given to NEAR.

- **Give to the Max Day: 11-17-22** - Each time you make a gift during Give to the Max, you could help NEAR to win part of the \$100,000+ Prize Pool! Early Giving begins on November 1!

- **Donate!** Your financial and food contributions to NEAR through your church continue to serve those in need in our community. **Click on the code below to make an electronic donation via the Give to the Max icon on the NEAR website:**

Please see our website at nearfoodshelf.org for details.



"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

-St. Gregory Nazianzen



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is a sacramental seal and where did it come from?

Answer:

Leaving more than just a memory, there are some events in our life that are truly transforming, making us different people. The same thing can be said of spiritual things, especially sacraments. A sacramental seal or character is a theological concept to describe the life-changing and permanent effect of three sacraments on the person: baptism, confirmation, and holy orders. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that these sacraments confer a seal "by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This configuration to Christ and the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is indelible" (#1121).

Once we receive these sacraments, we are forever changed. It's a spiritual "point of no return" whereby we take a step forward in our faith journey. We are marked as people of faith, as those who have received the Spirit and as those called to serve in ordained ministry. That is why these sacraments are received only once. The direction is set, the choice is made, and we are called by God to be his people. Nothing can change that, not even our own sinfulness.

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