



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

02 June 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Sacrosanctum Concilium

ˈsa-krō-,sang(k)-təm
kənˈsilēəm\

Latin for "Sacred Council," refers to a foundational document from the Second Vatican Council; better known in English as the "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy"; inaugurated the church's transition from the universal Latin Mass to celebrating Mass in the vernacular, among other reforms.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-Sacrosanctum-Concilium>

CONTEXT

Anyone who reads **Sacrosanctum Concilium** . . . can grasp its profound underlying intuition: reform does not involve the renewal of rites alone, but of the Church as a whole.

—*Archbishop Piero Marini, Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations*

The aim [of **Sacrosanctum Concilium**] was to ensure that Catholics would no longer be present at the Eucharist "as strangers or silent spectators." —*Austin Flannery, O.P.*

The **Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy** . . . is heart of our text, its deepest, its most enduring, and, as the fruit of the Spirit, its evangelical core.

—*Cardinal Yves Congar, O.P., Vatican II theologian*

WHY IT MATTERS

When Pope John XXIII convened Vatican II, liturgical reform was a paramount focus.

From **Sacrosanctum Concilium**: This **Sacred Council** desires to impart an ever-increasing vigor to the Christian life of the faithful. . . . The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows. . . . All the faithful should be led to active participation in liturgical celebrations (1, 10, 14).

RELATED WORDS

Liturgy | Mass | Lectionary | Roman missal

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Why does the liturgy change?

"Do this in memory of me," Jesus told his disciples. But he didn't tell them how to do it liturgically. Our rituals have been in flux ever since. Liturgies change to serve the community of faith. As Latin became the language of the marketplace in the fourth century, the Greek liturgy shifted into Latin. Following Vatican II's **Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy**, the Mass entered the vernacular in 1970, acknowledging that a dead language might not be the best choice for a living celebration.

Some changes simplify; others clarify. Host and chalice were elevated in the 13th century to emphasize the consecration. Before Vatican II, only 1 percent of the Old Testament and 17 percent of the New were heard at Mass. Now 14 percent of the Old and 71 percent of the New Testament are proclaimed. Each batch of liturgical changes attempts to speak to the present generation, while still preserving the ancient mystery we celebrate.

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-liturgy>*

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI) (JUNE 2)

Remembering makes the past, present

Watching a performance of Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* or a movie like Steven Spielberg's stirring portrait of *Abraham Lincoln* does more than momentarily bring these historical individuals to life again. They also thrill us with the possibilities inherent in achieving liberty. We are the heirs of this grand experiment. In a more visceral way, sharing our Holy Communion awakens once more the glorious and liberated life of Christ that we inherit.

READINGS: Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26 (168 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/060224.cfm>).
"Take it; this is my body."

FAITH IN ACTION

Christ is present in the bread, the wine—and us. What will you do with the Christ in you?