

# Tridentine Community News

December 7, 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent

## *The Seven Sacraments*

*Guest writer James Murphy continues his occasional series of articles on theological topics.*



In Catholic theology, a sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to confer grace. The Church teaches that there are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Among these, three: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, imprint an indelible sacramental character, permanently configuring the soul to Christ and therefore never repeated. For any sacrament to be valid, it must contain the proper matter and form, must be administered with the correct intention to do what the Church does, and, where necessary, must be conferred by the proper minister. Through these seven sacred rites, Christ continues to sanctify, strengthen, and guide His faithful. The Council of Trent dogmatically defined that Baptism alone is necessary for salvation, declaring it the indispensable sacrament of rebirth in Christ and the gateway through which one enters the Church and gains access to all the other sacraments. Session 7, Canon 5 (On Baptism): “If anyone says that baptism is optional, that is, not necessary for salvation, let him be anathema.”

Each of the seven sacraments has essential elements that guarantee its validity. Baptism requires natural water as its matter and the Trinitarian formula as its form, with the minister intending to baptize according to the Church. Confirmation uses sacred chrism as its matter and the words “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Ghost” as its form, with the intention to confer the Holy Ghost. The matter of the Eucharist is wheat bread and natural grape wine, and its form is Christ’s words of institution spoken by

a validly ordained priest who intends to consecrate. Penance requires the penitent’s contrition, confession, and satisfaction as its matter, and the priest’s words of absolution as its form, given with the intention to absolve. For Extreme Unction, the matter is anointing with blessed oil, and the form is the prayer of the priest asking for healing and forgiveness. Holy Orders uses the laying on of hands by a validly consecrated bishop as its matter and the consecratory prayer as its form, with the intention to ordain a baptized male for sacred ministry. In Matrimony, the matter is the mutual exchange of consent between a baptized man and woman, and the form is the expression of that consent before the Church’s minister and witnesses, with the spouses intending what marriage is by divine law. Through proper matter, form, and intention, each sacrament serves as an efficacious channel of Christ’s grace.

## *San Francisco Priest Training Report #9: St. Patrick’s Seminary*



Our *ninth* priest training report from San Francisco:

Congratulations to Fr. Mark Doherty, Rector of the Archdiocese of San Francisco’s St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, California, who celebrated his first Traditional Latin Mass on Saturday, November 29, 2025, after training from Extraordinary Faith. Special thanks to Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka, Music Director of the seminary, and Dr. Christopher Berry, Assistant Music Director, who organized the training. Chris, pictured, learned to serve the TLM at the same time. Fun fact: 20 years ago Fr. Doherty was a member of the TLM parish in Sacramento, St. Stephen.

## *Tridentine Masses This Coming Week*

Mon. 12/08 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor* (Immaculate Conception)

Mon. 12/08: 8:00 AM & 12:00 Noon Low Masses; 6:00 PM High Mass at *St. Joseph Shrine* (Immaculate Conception)

Tue. 12/09 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Feria)

Sat. 12/13 7:00 AM: Rorate Mass at *St. Thomas the Apostle*

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail [info@windsorlatinmass.org](mailto:info@windsorlatinmass.org). Previous columns are available at [www.windsorlatinmass.org](http://www.windsorlatinmass.org).