



Light the Way

LENT 2023

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Daily Challenges

1 FEBRUARY 22 (ASH WEDNESDAY)

Meditate:

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart.

Joel 2:12-18

Challenge yourself:

Determine your Lenten resolution. Write it down.

At the Parish:

Ash Wednesday Masses: 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Confessions from 5-5:45 p.m.

2 FEBRUARY 23

Meditate:

Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Dt 30:15-20

Challenge yourself:

Say a prayer for the children of Syria. Think of three things in your life that you are grateful for.

At the Parish:

Sign up to join a Connect Group to journey together this Lent and beyond. www.churchofsaintpaul.com/lent



3 FEBRUARY 24

Meditate:

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Ps 51

Challenge yourself:

What part of your heart is not God's? Invite Him into that part of your heart with his mercy and love.

At the Parish:

Attend Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

4

FEBRUARY 25

Meditate:

Then the LORD will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land. He will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails. Is 58:9b-14

Challenge yourself:

Take a moment to thank God for your many blessings. What is one thing that you are worried about in the future? Give that to God and ask Him to help deepen your trust in Him.

At the Parish:

Send a note of encouragement to a fellow parishioner.

5

FEBRUARY 26 (FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT)

Meditate:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. Gn 2:7-9

Challenge yourself:

Thank God for creating you. Take time to slow down and breathe at some point this day.

At the Parish:

Take a step on the Discipleship Pathway and *invite* one of your friends who has not been to Mass in awhile to join you today at 8:30 or 10:30 Mass. Take them out to lunch afterwards.

6

FEBRUARY 27

Meditate:

"You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. Though you may have to reprove him, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

Challenge yourself:

Ask God for the grace to forgive someone in your life who needs forgiveness.

At the Parish:

Watch the "Light the Way" video available on our Facebook page or www.churchofsaintpaul.com/lent





7

FEBRUARY 28

Meditate:

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Ps 34

Challenge yourself:

What is one way God wants to love you today? What are you afraid of? Invite God into the fear and let Him take care of you.

At the Parish:

Go to Confession sometime from 5-5:45 p.m. today.

8

MARCH 1

Meditate:

He rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes. Jon 3:1-10

Challenge yourself:

Choose one luxury to go without today, whether it be cream in your coffee, ordering takeout, or a favorite TV show.

At the Parish:

Take home a book or DVD from the Lending Library (Room 4).

9

MARCH 2

Meditate:

Now help me, who am alone and have no one but you, O LORD, my God. Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25

Challenge yourself:

Choose to abstain from secular media today. It could be the news, TV shows, or music.

At the Parish:

Join our parish group to serve a meal Sharing and Caring Hands at 11 a.m. today.

www.churchofsaintpaul.com/outreach



10 MARCH 3

Meditate:

Do I indeed derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked? says the LORD God. Do I not rather rejoice when he turns from his evil way that he may live? Ez 18:21-28

Challenge yourself:

Decide on when you will go to Confession. Write it down.

At the Parish:

Attend Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

11 MARCH 4

Meditate:

Be careful, then, to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. Today you are making this agreement with the LORD: he is to be your God and you are to walk in his ways and observe his statutes, commandments and decrees, and to hearken to his voice. Dt 26:16-19

Challenge yourself:

Re-evaluate your commitment to your Lenten resolution. If you have had difficulty following it, begin again today!

12 MARCH 5 (SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT)

Meditate:

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Gn 12:1-4a

Challenge yourself:

Reflect on three ways that God has worked in your life recently.

At the Parish:

During Mass (8:30 or 10:30 a.m.), remember all of our brothers and sisters in Syria and pray for them.



13 MARCH 6

Meditate:

Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins. Remember not against us the iniquities of the past; may your compassion quickly come to us, for we are brought very low. Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13

Challenge yourself:

Identify one area of your life that you need to forgive yourself for. Bring it up to Jesus in prayer.

At the Parish:

Watch the "Light the Way" video available on our Facebook page or www.churchofsaintpaul.com/lent



14 MARCH 7

Meditate:

Learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Is 1:10, 16-20

Challenge yourself:

Learn more about Damascus the experiences our brothers and sisters there have endured. Pray for them and consider making a donation to help with their physical needs.

15 MARCH 8

Meditate:

Remember that I stood before you to speak in their behalf, to turn away your wrath from them. Jer 18:18-20

Challenge yourself:

Think of one person who bothers you and come up with 1-3 positive traits that they have.

At the Parish:

Go to Confession (available from 5-5:45 p.m. today).

16 MARCH 9

Meditate:

Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the LORD.

Jer 17:5-10

Challenge yourself:

Take 3-5 minutes at the beginning of your day to pray and ask God to give you strength for the day. Trust in His plan.

17 MARCH 10

Meditate:

His purpose was to rescue him from their hands and return him to his father. Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a

Challenge yourself:

Identify one person to invite to church with you.

At the Parish:

Attend Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

18 MARCH 11

Meditate:

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Challenge yourself:

Spend some time in nature today.

At the Parish:

Pray for the men on the Men's Retreat. Ask for the intercession of St. Joseph, the model of manhood.

19 MARCH 12 (THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT)

Meditate:

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Challenge yourself:

Reflect on a time where you were anxious or stressed and God provided for you.

At the Parish:

Bring a non-perishable food donation to church today to provide for those in need in Anoka County.



Did you know...
Damascus,
capital of Syria,
is one of the
oldest
continuously
inhabited areas
in the world?

20 MARCH 13

Meditate:

"Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean." 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab

Challenge yourself:

Make a healthy choice today, whether it be going for a walk, drinking water, or eating vegetables. Thank God for caring about both our physical and spiritual needs.

At the Parish:

Watch the "Light the Way" video available on our Facebook page or www.churchofsaintpaul.com/lent



21 MARCH 14

Meditate:

For we are reduced, O LORD, beyond any other nation, brought low everywhere in the world this day because of our sins. We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense, no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you. Dn 3:25, 34-43

Challenge yourself:

Pray for politicians, sports figures, and celebrities.

At the Parish:

The prayer line is always open. Send in a prayer request today on our website: www.churchofsaintpaul.com/prayer-request or call (763) 757-4379



22 MARCH 15

Meditate:

Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' Dt 4:1, 5-9

Challenge yourself:

Think of a question you have about the Catholic Faith and look into it, whether it be asking a trusted Catholic friend about it or reading the Catechism to understand it better.



23 MARCH 16

Meditate:

Thus says the LORD: This is what I commanded my people: Listen to my voice. Jer 7:23-28

Challenge yourself:

Take five minutes of silence today (without electronics or material to read). Open your heart to hear God's voice.

24 MARCH 17 (ST. PATRICK'S DAY)

Meditate:

Thus says the LORD: Return, O Israel, to the LORD, your God; you have collapsed through your guilt. Take with you words, and return to the LORD. Hos 14:2-10

Challenge yourself:

Go to Adoration today. Find God in the silence.

www.churchofsaintpaul.com/adoration

At the Parish:

Attend Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.



25 MARCH 18

Meditate:

Come, let us return to the LORD, it is he who has rent, but he will heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence. Hos 6:1-6

Challenge yourself:

Reflect on an image of Christ, whether it is an icon or another form of religious art.

At the Parish:

Pray for the women on retreat this weekend that they would claim their true identity as beloved daughters of God.

26 MARCH 19 (FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

Meditate:

Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Challenge yourself:

Ask God to help you see yourself and others as He does.

At the Parish:

Invite someone to the Living Stations (March 22, 23, or 24)

www.churchofsaintpaul.com/living-stations

27 MARCH 20

Meditate:

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness, For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Challenge yourself:

Listen to and/or sing your favorite Christian song today.

At the Parish:

Watch the "Light the Way" video available on our Facebook page or www.churchofsaintpaul.com/lent



28 MARCH 21

Meditate:

He asked me, "Have you seen this, son of man?" Then he brought me to the bank of the river, where he had me sit. Along the bank of the river I saw very many trees on both sides. Ez 47:1-9, 12

Challenge yourself:

Take time to notice the beauty in your surroundings today, whether it be decorations indoors or nature outdoors.

29 MARCH 22

Meditate:

Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you; and I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people. Is 49:8-15

Challenge yourself:

Choose a saint story to read today, whether it is your patron saint or one you have never heard of before.

30 MARCH 23

Meditate:

"Go down at once to your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, for they have become depraved. They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them, making for themselves a molten calf and worshipping it. Ex 32:7-14

Challenge yourself:

Identify one area of your life that you prioritize more than your faith. Ask God to help you order your life according to His will.

31 MARCH 24

Meditate:

With revilement and torture let us put him to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience.

Wis 2:1a, 12-22

Challenge yourself:

Identify one area of your life that you feel like is too much to handle. Invite God into the situation.

At the Parish:

Attend the Living Stations of the Cross from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

32 MARCH 25 (THE ANNUNCIATION)

Meditate:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us!"

Is 7:10-14; 8:10



Challenge yourself:

Take 3-5 minutes to reflect on the beauty of the Incarnation.

At the Parish:

Confessions with several priests from 10 a.m.-noon today.

Childcare available (no reservations needed).

33 MARCH 26 (FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

Meditate:

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Ez 37:12-14

Challenge yourself:

Identify one area of your life where you feel discouraged and ask God to give you strength and peace.

At the Parish:

Check out the parish's Spotify playlist from the homepage of our website or

<https://tinyurl.com/spotifycosp>



34 MARCH 27

Meditate:

"O eternal God, you know what is hidden and are aware of all things before they come to be. Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62

Challenge yourself:

Ask God for the grace to trust his plans for you in the future.

At the Parish:

Watch the "Light the Way" video available on our Facebook page or www.churchofsaintpaul.com/lent



35 MARCH 28

Meditate:

But with their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses. Nm 21:4-9

Challenge yourself:

Fast from complaining and negative comments today.

At the Parish:

Confession available with several priests 6-8 p.m.

36 MARCH 29

Meditate:

If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue that you set up. Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

So if the Son frees you, then you will truly be free. Jn 8:31-42

Challenge yourself:

What is one area of your life where you need God's freedom? Invite Him into that area of your life and rejoice in His freedom.

At the Parish:

Attend Mass this evening at 6 p.m.

37 MARCH 30

Meditate:

Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." Jn 8:51-59

Challenge yourself:

Pray for your loved ones who have passed away and ask God for the grace to have a holy and peaceful death.

38

MARCH 31

Meditate:

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.

Ps 18

Challenge yourself:

Bring a list of your intentions to God. Rest assured that He has heard you and dearly loves you and your loved ones.

At the Parish:

Attend Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.

39

APRIL 1

Meditate:

The Lord will guard us, as a shepherd guards his flock.

Jeremiah 31:10

Challenge yourself:

Consider a moment of your life where you saw God's protection or one way you see God's protective love currently in your life. Thank Him for His love and protection.

At the Parish:

Help with Holy Week decorating at church from 1-3 p.m. today.

40

APRIL 2 (PALM SUNDAY)

Meditate:

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." Mt 21:1-11

Challenge yourself:

What is one way you can more fully live like Christ as your king? Change the background of your phone or some artwork in your house to show honor to God.

At the Parish:

Return your donation boxes to church this week. Pray that our offerings would be a blessing

and provide hope and light for the resilient people of Syria.



41

APRIL 3

Meditate:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased. Is 42:1-7

Challenge yourself:

What about you pleases God? It could be something in your spiritual journey or in other areas of your life. Try to do something that makes God smile today.

At the Parish:

Watch the "Light the Way" video available on our Facebook page or www.churchofsaintpaul.com/lent



42

APRIL 4

Meditate:

Hear me, O islands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. Is 49:1-6

Challenge yourself:

What is God calling you to do? How have you answered that call? Resolve to renew your commitment to God's plan.

43

APRIL 5

Meditate:

See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong? Is 50:4-9a

Challenge yourself:

Invite God to work through you today to pray for others in your life. Remember particularly our brothers and sisters in Damascus.

At the Parish:

Confession available with several priests 4-6

p.m. Offer up the time of waiting in line for those in Damascus.



44 APRIL 6 (HOLY THURSDAY)

Meditate:

You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." Jn 13:1-15

Challenge yourself:

How can you be more Christlike? Think of one particular way you can be better at imitating Christ and try to implement that more into your life today.

At the Parish:

Attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m.
Participate in a Seven Churches Visitation afterwards.

<https://tinyurl.com/holythursday7>



45 APRIL 7 (GOOD FRIDAY)

Meditate:

"Crucify him, crucify him!" "It is finished." Jn 18:1-19:42

Challenge yourself:

In what way does your life cry "Crucify Him"? Spend a moment meditating on Christ on the cross and see how His love reaches you even in the midst of your sins. Thank Him for His infinite love towards you in a particular way.

At the Parish:

Divine Mercy Chaplet and Stations of the Cross, 3 p.m.
Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, 7 p.m.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

We are blessed to have a connection between the Church of Saint Paul and our partner diocese in Damascus, Syria.

The Damascus Partnership, formalized by the Archdioceses in 2017, offers a unique opportunity to be received, converted and sent forth, like St. Paul, as witnesses of Good News in our own day. Through a relationship of mutuality and solidarity, we are called to learn from one another; to be inspired and consoled by one another; and to encounter in our midst the presence of Christ.

Archeparch (Archbishop) Samir Nassar visited our parish in 2018 and 2023 and continues to correspond with our pastor, Fr. Jim Livingston. With each visit and letter, he asks that we do not forget the people of Damascus. "We must know that we are not alone in this Church, we don't walk alone, we walk together, with Jesus, Our Lady, all the saints, the Holy Spirit — they are supporting us on our way and this helps us to follow our mission, even if (it's) difficult."



Fr. Jim Livingston gives Archeparch Samir Nassar a Spiritual Bouquet from parishioners during his visit in January 2023. Deacon George Stahl (left) and Deacon Mickey Friesen (Center for Mission) (right) look on.

OUR LENTEN OFFERING



Archeparch Samir Nassar

Photo by Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit.

This year during Lent we are supporting the people of Damascus, Syria with our prayers and financial offerings. Archeparch Samir Nassar is hoping to provide basic needs for 600 families in Damascus with support of \$20/family per month. (The average salary for a cook in

Damascus is \$20/month.) Our donations will help the Archeparch fulfill his pledge to the families in his area.

In addition, because of the aftermath of a long war and destruction of infrastructure, Syrians rely on solar panels to provide electricity. The panels need batteries to run. The cost of one battery is \$2,000 and each panel requires eight batteries.



These solar panels are lifelines for the people of Syria, giving them light and heat. The need has become even more critical after the February 2023 devastating earthquakes.

Our gifts will give light and hope for the people of Damascus, Syria.

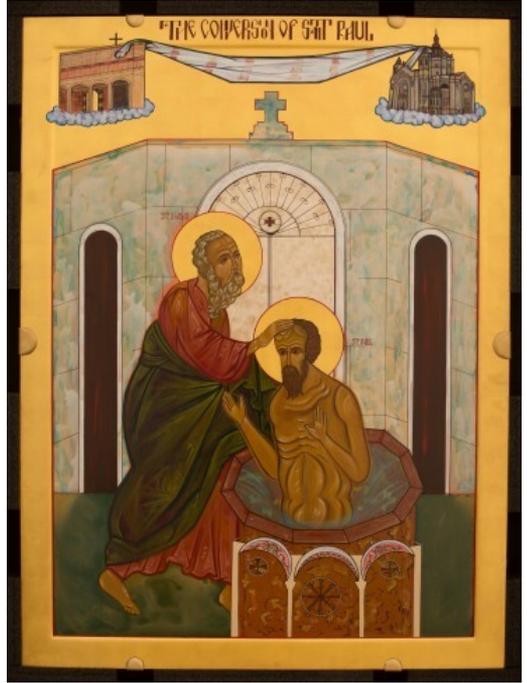
Jesus, help us Light the Way for our brothers and sisters.



A PRAYER FOR OUR PARTNERSHIP

Eternal God, source of compassion, You called St. Paul to conversion on the road to Damascus. You opened his eyes to faith through the witness and ministry of Ananias and the church in Damascus. May this partnership open our eyes to your Gospel of love for all people.

You chose Paul to bring The Gospel to the Gentiles. Together, may we give witness to your Good News by what we say and do. Form us in that same missionary spirit to go forth and give witness to your love in the world.



May this partnership of faith and solidarity give witness to unity in a time of conflict and division. May it awaken us to those who continue to be persecuted for their faith, especially in the Middle East. May our sharing help bring compassion and comfort to those who suffer and struggle to find hope. May this partnership renew in us the same spirit of kinship that made Paul and Ananias brothers in Christ and partners in your saving mission. May our prayer for one another sustain us and draw us close.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us to choose the path of peace and justice. Let there be peace in our hearts, in our language and in our actions. Let us walk together in faith and in peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the communion of the Holy Spirit; one God forever and ever. Amen.

St. Ananias: Pray for us! St. Paul: Pray for us!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Eastern Catholic, i.e., a Catholic of the Eastern Church?

The Eastern Catholic Church is one of the two branches of the Catholic Church, the other being the Western Church, or Roman Rite.

Eastern Catholics are in full communion with the Pope of Rome.

Eastern Catholics hold the same beliefs as Roman Catholics, but express their faith in customs and traditions that date back to the early centuries of the church.

Are Eastern Catholics, Roman Catholics of the Byzantine Church?

They are their own separate church, often described by the term "sui Juris." The Eastern Church falls under the authority of the Pope; its members adhere to the basic tenets of the Catholic Church but practice various customs and traditions developed over the centuries in the localities of their origin.

What is the difference between the Orthodox Christians and Eastern Catholics?

The practices and traditions of the Orthodox Christians and Eastern Catholics are virtually identical. The biggest difference is that Catholics are in communion with the Pope of Rome, while Orthodox are not. The Orthodox deny papal infallibility and the Immaculate Conception, they quarrel over purgatory, consecration by the words of institution, and the procession of the Holy Ghost.

Can Western Catholics attend an Eastern Church to fulfill their Sunday obligation?

Yes! Any Catholic can attend any other Catholic Church to fulfill their obligation. However, in the Eastern tradition, there are no abbreviated Divine Liturgies (known as Masses in the West).

What language is used in Eastern Churches?

The Divine Liturgy has always been in the common language of the people.

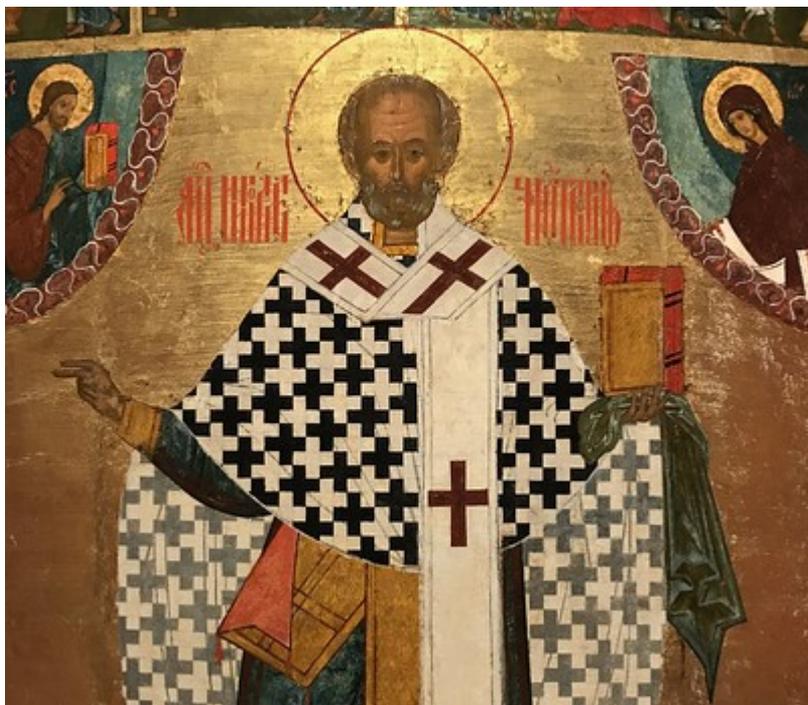
What are some differences between Byzantines and Roman Catholics?

The Eastern Divine Liturgy is almost completely chanted and is different than the Western Roman Mass. Communion is given out to standing communicants, who received both the precious Body and Blood in two species, leavened bread and wine. The priest uses a gold spoon to place/drop the Bread/Wine into their mouths.

Other differences:

- Icons are used instead of statues.
- Incense is used throughout the Liturgy.
- Eastern Churches have a large wall of Icon Screens, called an Iconostas, which separate the Altar area from the rest of the church.
- Priests of the Eastern Church can be married.

From the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois



When thinking of Major Catholic Doctrines

Western (Roman Catholics) Focus on:		Eastern Catholics Focus on:
The Oneness of God, who is also three Persons	Trinity	God as three Persons, who are also One.
The Humanity of Christ invites us, but he is also Divine	Christ	The Divinity of Christ inspires us, but he is also human
The Pope is the guarantor of unity. Diocese are directly under his jurisdiction	Church	Bishops in <i>synods</i> (in communion) with the Pope guarantee unity of the Church
Mary as Virgin and Mother. We relate to her sharing in the earthly life of Jesus	Mary	Mary as <i>Theotokos</i> (Mother of God). She stands at the head of all of God's creation
Model: Lord's Supper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down-to-earth atmosphere • Clear messages with simple words • Very frugal use of symbols • Focus on the here and now • Beauty in simplicity • Use of various musical instruments in the liturgy 	Liturgy	Model: Heavenly Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmic realities • Subconscious, holistic, more use of senses • Repetition as a way into the deeper self • Focus on eschatology (heaven on earth), beauty in its fullness • Liturgies entirely sung. Human voice is the primary instrument
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More linear; either/or • Often prefer juridical, philosophical clarity to poetic synthesis • St. Peter • Social Justice issues flow from Christ's humanity • We act towards one another as Jesus of Nazareth did. 	Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More symbolic; both/and • Prefer poetic synthesis to philosophical analysis • St. Andrew • Social justice issues flow from the communion of the Trinity. • The Trinitarian community of Love is a model for us.

Eastern and Western Catholics approach, teach, and celebrate their faith differently, but they share the same Catholic Faith.

Eastern and Western Catholics do not contradict each other.

They complement each other.

Different – Yet the Same
Two Traditions, But One Catholic Church

Roman Rite Today		Byzantine Rite Today
<p>There is a more relaxed feeling, very down to earth, using a lot of contemporary music. Liturgy has the feel of shared celebration. <i>Emphasis:</i> God is here with us, so go and live this out in the world.</p>	<p>Liturgy</p>	<p>The use of dramatic music and actions tries to lift people up to experience a ‘taste of Heaven’. <i>Emphasis:</i> This is what God has in store for us in Heaven, so go and live this out in the world right now.</p>
<p>New Churches are usually built in a very simple style, with little adornment, and only a few pieces of art, to fit into the modern world and reflect modern tastes. <i>Emphasis:</i> Each generation responds to God in its own way. Our current styles and fashions can give glory to God, just as the past styles did.</p>	<p>Church Buildings</p>	<p>Even new churches with modern lines usually have domes and a lot of icons, emphasizing that ancient traditions are still meaningful today in the modern world. <i>Emphasis:</i> God has been with us through the centuries. Even though things change, God’s love — and our response — are always the same, yesterday and today.</p>
<p>Contemporary artists are encouraged to let their individual experience of God come through their art. This encourages creativity and artistic freedom, but reduces the common ownership and understanding of this religious art by others. <i>Emphasis:</i> Many different styles of art help us to express what God’s love means for us.</p>	<p>Church Art</p>	<p>Icons express the public teaching of the Church. The individual artist’s ideas are secondary. Iconographers have a somewhat limited freedom, but the basic message of salvation in the icon is more easily grasped, once its common symbols are learned. <i>Emphasis:</i> There are things about God’s love which we have all experienced and understand together.</p>

Eastern and Western Catholics can show respect for one another by learning more about each other. We have the same Catholic Faith, but we express it in different ways.



**CHURCH OF
SAINT PAUL**

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