

The word **Liturgy** means the public prayer of the Church.

- Liturgy celebrates the wonderful things God has done for us and the way he continues the work of our **salvation** through Jesus Christ.
 - All of the sacraments are a form of Liturgy. (The are liturgical celebrations - “Liturgical” is the adjective that goes with the word “liturgy”).
 - The Mass is an example of Liturgy.

The word rite means:

- one of the many forms followed in celebrating liturgy in the Church
- A rite can differ according to the country or culture where it is celebrated.
- **A “rite” is also the special form for celebrating each sacrament.**
 - Sometimes, the word “order” can be used in place of the word rite when you’re talking about the things that happen “in order” during a sacrament.
 - “The Rite of Baptism” = “The Order of Baptism” = all the steps that a priest or deacon follows when they’re celebrating the sacrament.

Rites within the Catholic Church

1. **The Latin Rite:** This is what we as **Roman Catholics** belong to. It can also be referred to as the **Western Church**.
2. **The Eastern Catholic Churches:**
 - a. These can be referred to as the **Byzantine Church**. (The 5th graders don’t need to remember this term – They’re introduced

as **Eastern Rite Churches** in the Religion book, so that's the term they need to know for now.)

- b. These Churches are in full Communion with Rome. That means that they, like us, believe that the Pope is the earthly leader of the Church. It also means that Roman Catholics can attend a Mass at Catholic Eastern Rite Church and it fulfills their Sunday Mass obligation (and vice versa).
- c. The Eastern Churches have their own traditions (style of liturgy, style of priestly vestments, vocabulary, etc.) Many Masses would be said in the language of the geographic area that the Church originated in.
- d. They are very often confused with **Orthodox Churches**, which split from Rome and are not loyal to the Pope. The traditions of the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches are very similar to those of Orthodox Christians. An Eastern Rite Church that is part of the **Universal Catholic Church** would have the word "Catholic" in its name! For example, there is a **Ukrainian Catholic Church**, but there's also a Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The Ukrainian Catholic Church is part of the Eastern Rite. When we say "**We believe in one holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church**", they're a part of it! (The Ukrainian Orthodox Church is something separate.) Some other examples of Eastern Rites are the Maronites, The Albanian Greek Catholic Church, and the Armenian Catholic Church. (You don't need to know any examples. But if you're curious, here's the full list of the 23 Eastern Rite Catholic Churches!

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/can-you-name-all-23-eastern-catholic-churches/>)

- e. This is confusing to many adult Catholics, too, because we're so familiar with what we as Roman Catholics do, and the Eastern Church seems so different!

The Religion textbook just throws this in as one sentence (with "Eastern Catholic Church" as the key word), so the 5th graders don't need to know about this in detail. What they need to know for now is:

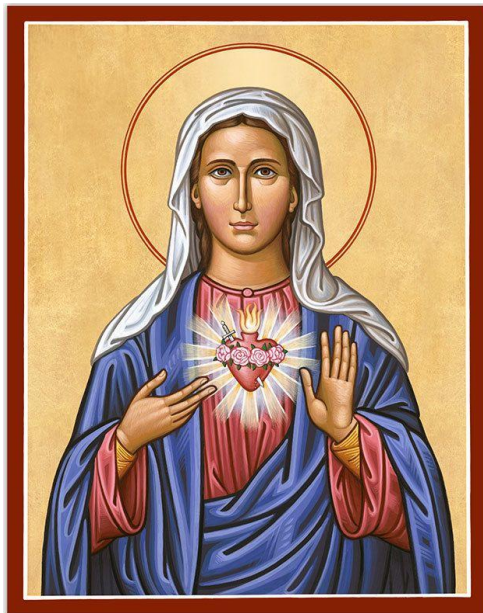
- **We belong to the Roman Catholic Church, which can also be called "The Latin Church."**
- **There are also Eastern Catholic Churches which have their own traditions, but they are still part of the Catholic Church. They are in union with Rome (in other words, the Pope is their earthly leader, too). They believe in the same fundamental Catholic Church teachings as we do.**
- The religion book also says that the Eastern Catholic Churches call their sacraments mysteries, but this detail won't be included in the next test!
- See next two pages for some photos!



Pope Francis with some Patriarchs of the Eastern Rite Churches.
(*The Eastern Churches have **patriarchs** instead of **bishops**.)



The inside of an ornate Byzantine Church



Icons are a traditional style of artwork found in Eastern Rite Churches and also frequently displayed in the homes of Eastern Rite Catholics.

This is the video we watched that talks about the different Catholic Rites:

https://youtu.be/U84znOpESv8?si=Qo_sSiOBw5dDForu

