

Symbolon Episode 8: Why Do I Need the Church We Believe, Chapter 7



“I am the vine, you are the branches” (Jn 15:5) – Basilica of San Clemente, Rome

Opening Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, bless us tonight as we learn about your Church.
Open our hearts and our minds to understand the great love you
have for us as you welcome all through the waters of Baptism to
participate in both the divine and human aspects of your Church
and the salvation you offer through it. Amen*

Song:

- Catechism references for further reflection:

- The Church is One: CCC 813-814
- The Church is Holy: CCC 823-825
- The Church is Catholic: CCC 830-831
- The Church is Apostolic: CCC 857
- The bonds of unity in the Church: CCC 815
- Bishops as successors of the Apostles: CCC 861-862

- Apostles Creed:

“We believe in **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic** Church”

- Questions for Discussion:

- What is “The Church”? What do you think of Jesus describing Himself as “the vine” and we, united to Him in the Church, as “the branches”?
- Does Jesus play an active role today in the Church He founded?

- What role(s) do you (or will you) play in Jesus' Church?
- While we believe Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with each of us, what else does Jesus expect of us?
- How does Jesus use His Church to dispense Sanctifying Grace?
- How is the Church both human and divine? How have you experienced the human and divine aspects of the Church?
- The four marks of the Church are:
 - One
 - Holy
 - Catholic
 - Apostolic

...what do these mean?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading:** Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Mk 13:24-32](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"In those days after that tribulation
 the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light,
 and the stars will be falling from the sky,
 and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
 "And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds'
 with great power and glory,
 and then he will send out the angels
 and gather his elect from the four winds,
 from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.
 "Learn a lesson from the fig tree.
 When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves,
 you know that summer is near.
 In the same way, when you see these things happening,
 know that he is near, at the gates.
 Amen, I say to you,
 this generation will not pass away
 until all these things have taken place.
 Heaven and earth will pass away,
 but my words will not pass away.
 "But of that day or hour, no one knows,
 neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."