

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:

[Mt 25:1-13](#)

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."