



Catholicism 101

Father Joseph White



Questions:

- Why do Catholics not eat meat on Fridays? Is it a sin if you do? And, if it is so important to abstain - why has the "rule" been changed/relaxed that it only applies to the time frame of Lent when it used to be every Friday?
- Is it still required to fast for at least an hour before receiving Holy Communion?

The Mass





General Observations

- Mary Magdalene
- This is the Final Covenant
 - It is one event from the Last Supper until the Cross
- Mass is a sacrifice
- The real presence of the Lord
- This is a dialogue with the Lord
- Mystical Experience
- A road map to our devotional life

The Liturgy of the Eucharist





Preparation of the Gifts

- The Preparation of the Gifts
 - Bread symbolizes the livelihood of a person (need bread and water)
 - The wine was given to guests and visitors
- Mixes Water and Wine
 - Divinity and Humanity of Christ
- Washes hands
 - Ps 24: Clean hands and a pure heart go together
 - This symbolizes that the priest is about to stand in the holiest of places (Levitical Priesthood)



The Eucharistic Prayer

- Preface

- Ancient Dialogue with Hippolytus (215)
- The Lord be with you (Beginning, Gospel, Preface, Conclusion)
- Lift up your hearts (give everything to God in this moment)
- Thanksgiving (the only gift we can give that God doesn't have)
 - This is the proper relationship towards God

- Sanctus

- Threefold "holy."
- Signifies Christ is coming. Think of Christ entering Jerusalem (and Revelation 4:8)



The Eucharistic Prayer

- Epiclesis (Calling down the Holy Spirit)
- The Words of Institution
 - A liturgical memorial relives the event (Passover)
 - We make present again
- The Mystery of Faith (1 Tim 3:9)
 - We need to let what we just saw set in
- The anamnesis
 - We recall what we are doing currently
 - Kid telling his dad about his game
- Offering
 - We offer the Son to the Father
 - We unite with this sacrifice reminding ourselves of the threefold offering of the Old Testament
 - Melchizedek, Abel, and Abraham
- Intercessions
- Doxology and great Amen



Communion Rite

- The Lord's prayer (We are his kin)
- Must be delivered from Satan
- We ask for peace. This is a personal peace first and foremost.
- We echo the words of King David (1 Chr 29:10-11)
 - Final words before passing on his kingdom to David
- Agnus Dei / Fraction
 - The Pope used to do this
 - Threefold supplication (Confiteor, Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus)



Communion Rite

- Behold the Lamb
- I am not worthy
 - Christ comes anyways
- Holy Communion
 - It is our marriage with the Lord.
 - We become one with him



Concluding Rites

- Greeting
 - The Lord be with You (Being Sent)
- Blessing
 - Starts with the cross and ends with the Cross
- Dismissal
 - *Ite Missa est*
 - We derive the name of mass from “Go forth.”
 - We are sent as apostles



Mary, The New Eve

- Genesis 3
- John 2 and John 19
- Revelation 12 (The Serpent, The Child, The Woman)
- She must be equal or more excellent value to Eve



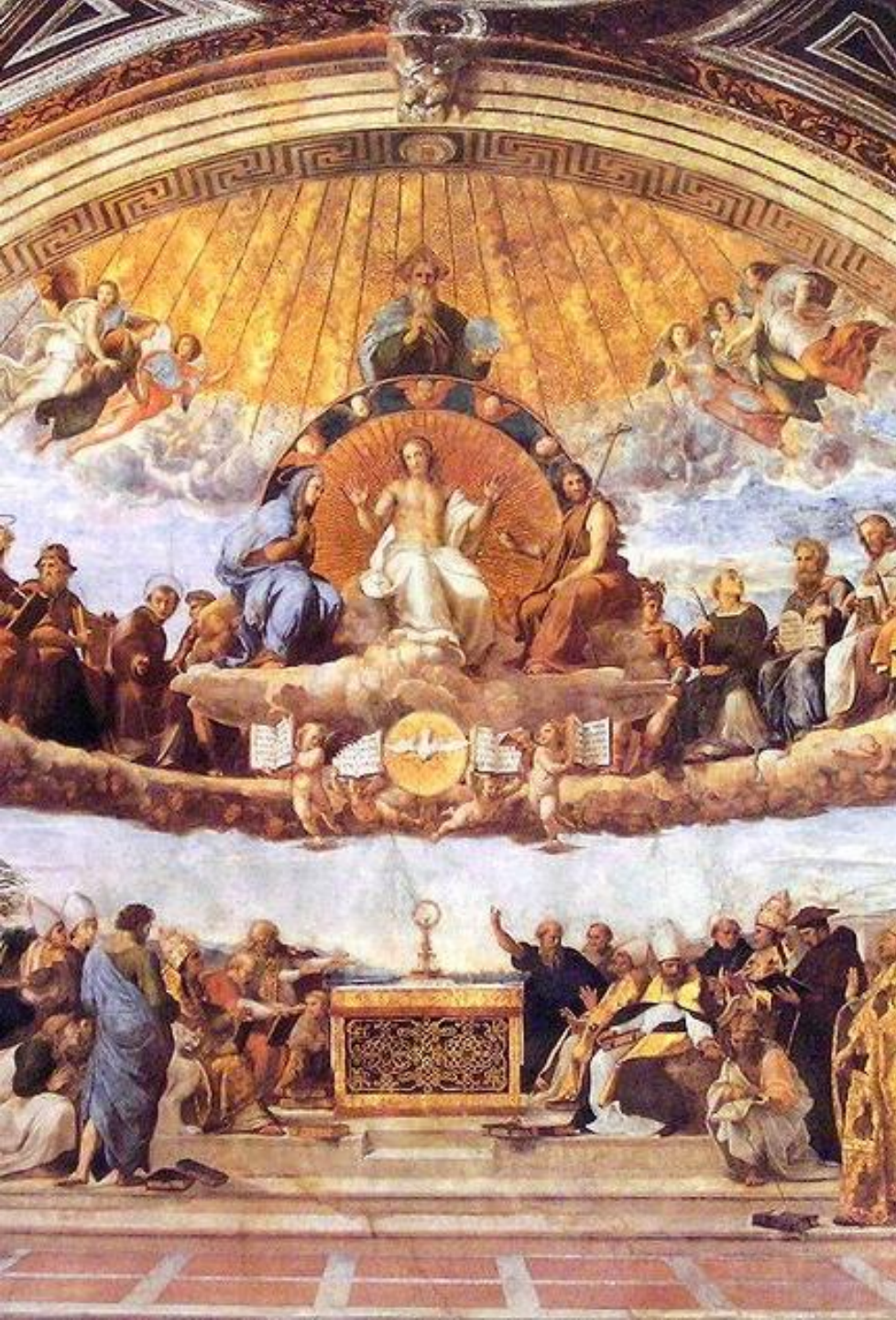
Mary, The New Ark

- The Ark was the dwelling place of God on Earth
- The Israelites expected the Ark to come back
- The parallels
 - David and Elizabeth
 - The things in the Tabernacle



The Queen Mother

- The *gebirah*, the queen mother.
- Bathsheba and Solomon
 - Adonijah asks for intercession



The Communion of the Saints

- “[An] angel came and stood at the altar [in heaven] with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God” (Rev. 8:3-4).
- “The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit” (Jas. 5:16–18).



This is about Jesus Christ

- Let's talk about revelation:
- Revelation 1:1
- "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"
- It is a wedding feast for us and the bridegroom (Jesus Christ)



Heaven

The fulfillment of all desire.

It is total union with God.

We are one with Jesus.

It is seeing God face to face.



What will heaven be like?

- Heaven, then, is not like this world; I will say what it is much more like — *a church*. For in a place of public worship ... we hear solely and entirely of God. We praise Him, worship Him, sing to Him, thank Him, confess to Him, give ourselves up to Him, and ask His blessing. And *therefore*, a church is like heaven; viz. [namely] because both in the one and the other, there is one single sovereign subject — religion — brought before us.
- John Henry Newman, “Holiness Necessary for Future Blessedness”



Purgatory

- CCC 1030:
 - All who die in God's grace, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

Where is that in the Bible?

- II Maccabees 12:39-46
 - Jews believed in praying for the dead shortly before Jesus came
- Matthew 12:32
 - Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
- 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
 - If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Hell

- This is eternal separation from God.
- This is a decision by the person.
- God wants all to be saved.



Did Jesus intend to establish a Church?

Matthew 16:13-20





Biblical Evidence of a Visible Church

- Bishops: "The saying is sure whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. Now a bishop (*episcopoi*) must be above reproach, married only once, temperate..."
 - 1 Timothy 3:1-2
- Priests: "Let the elders (*presbuteroi*) who rule well be considered worth of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching"
 - 1 Timothy 5:17
- Deacons: "Deacons (*diakonoι*) likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money."
 - 1 Timothy 3:8

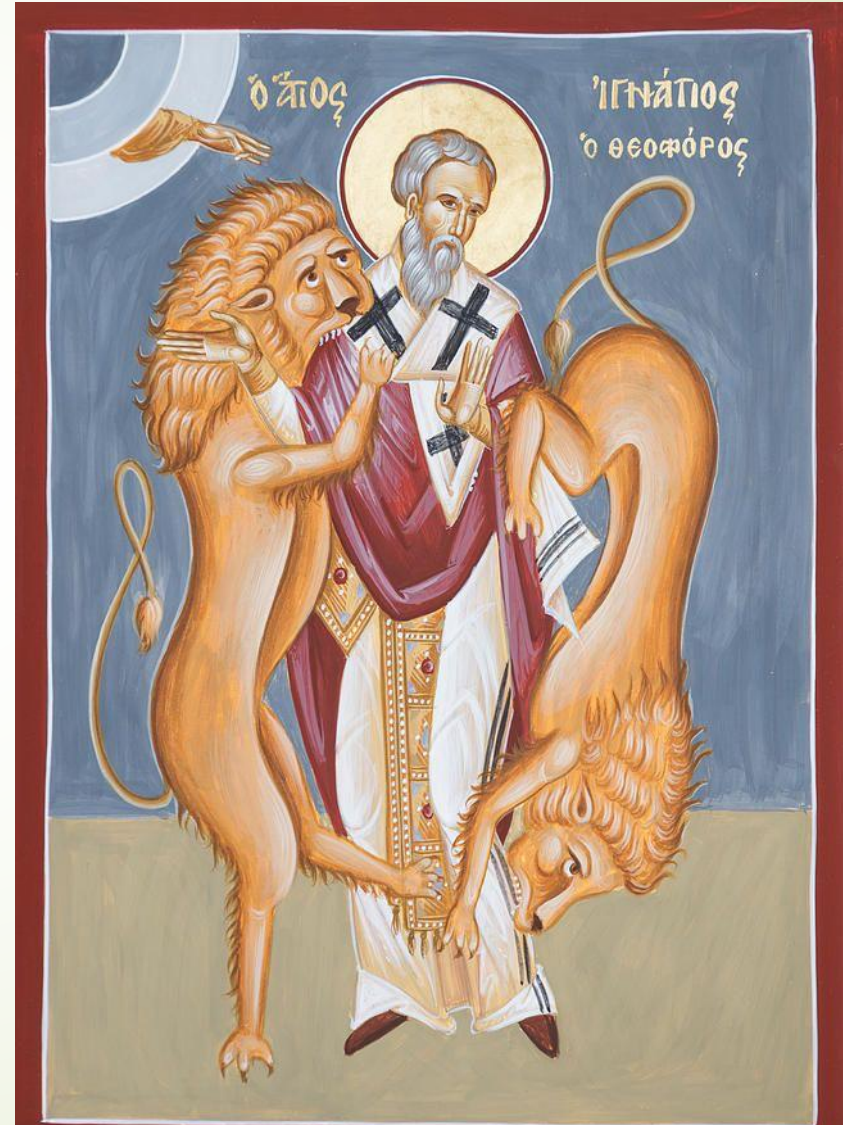


Biblical Evidence of Apostolic Succession

- Acts 1:16-26 (Judas is replaced)
- 1 Corinthians 12:28-29 - “And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?”
- Ephesians 4:11-12 - “And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”

Ignatius of Antioch (died ~100AD)

- He was a disciple of
 - St. John the Apostle
 - St. Polycarp
- He was the bishop of Antioch





Writings of St. Ignatius of Antioch

- “I salute in the blood of Jesus Christ, who is our eternal and enduring joy, especially if [men] are in unity with the bishop, the presbyters, and the deacons, who have been appointed according to the mind of Jesus Christ, whom He has established in security, after His own will, and by His Holy Spirit.”
 - (The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians, Greeting)




Writings of St. Ignatius of Antioch

► “Wherefore, as children of light and truth, flee from division and wicked doctrines; but where the shepherd is, there follow as sheep. For there are many wolves that appear worthy of credit, who, by means of a pernicious pleasure, carry captive 2 Timothy 3:6 those that are running towards God; but in your unity they shall have no place. Keep yourselves from those evil plants which Jesus Christ does not tend, because they are not the planting of the Father. Not that I have found any division among you, but exceeding purity. For as many as are of God and of Jesus Christ are also with the bishop. And as many as shall, in the exercise of repentance, return into the unity of the Church, these, too, shall belong to God, that they may live according to Jesus Christ. Do not err, my brethren. If any man follows him that makes a schism in the Church, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If any one walks according to a strange opinion, he agrees not with the passion [of Christ].”

► (The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians, Greeting)



Writings of St. Ignatius of Antioch



➤ “See that you all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist, which is [administered] either by the bishop, or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude [of the people] also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church. It is not lawful without the bishop either to baptize or to celebrate a love-feast; but whatsoever he shall approve of, that is also pleasing to God, so that everything that is done may be secure and valid.”

➤ The Epistle of Ignatius to the Smyrnaeans



Online Resources / Sources Cited

- “A New Biblical Argument for Apostolic Succession”
 - Dave Armstrong
 - National Catholic Register
 - <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/biblical-argument-for-apostolic-succession>
- “What the Early Church Believed: Bishop, Priest, Deacon”
 - Catholic Answers
 - <https://www.catholic.com/tract/bishop-priest-and-deacon>



Book Recommendations



- Bergsma, John. *Bible Basics for Catholic: A New Picture of Salvation History*.
- D'Ambrosio, Swafford. *What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith*. Ascension Press.
- Hahn, Scott. *Swear to God: The Promise and Power of the Sacraments*.
- Kauth, Matthew Rev., *The Sacraments: Discovering the Treasures of Divine Life*.
- Pitre, Brant. *Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told*.
- Pitre, Brant. *Jesus and the Jewish Root of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper*.
- Pitre, Brant. *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary: Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah*.
- De Sales, Francis (Saint). *An Introduction to the Devout Life*.