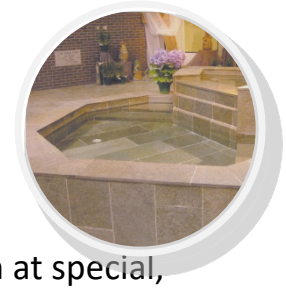


Sacraments:

History, Theology and Practice.

We celebrate the Sacraments every week. We celebrate them at special, God-arranged times in our lives. But, what do they mean? Where do we find them in the Scriptures? How can we more deeply enter into these sacred mysteries?



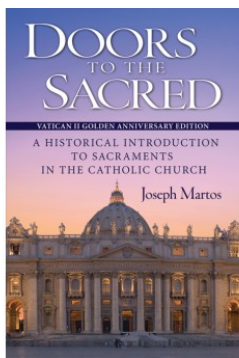
The Sacraments are central to being Catholic. This year we will take some time to uncover and reflect on each of the seven sacraments. Two hours is a short amount of time, but hopefully it will give you some space to learn their history, growth and changes and to think about these sacred moments in your life.

The practical stuff:

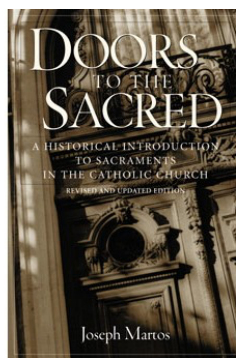
Books:

I've chosen 3 books. Don't panic. Pick the **one** which will best answer the questions you have.

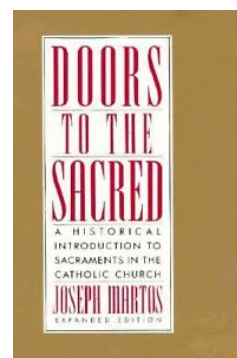
Martos, Joseph. **Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to the Sacraments in the Catholic Church.** Liguori, Missouri: Liguori/Triumph, 2013. (or 2001 or even 1991, electronic or good old fashioned paper)



OR

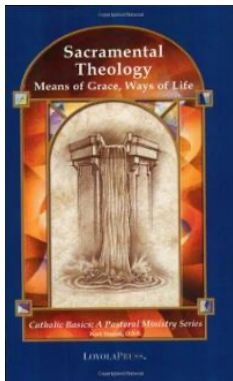


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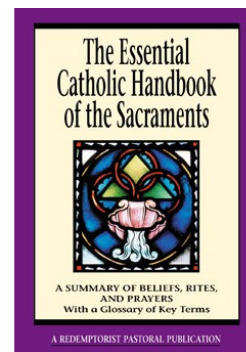
Choose this one if you're interested in history. It is *THE* classic book on the history of the sacraments. The text is easy to read, but it will also be the most reading. The newer edition has internet stuff too. There is also a large bibliography. This one shows we got from Jesus to the way we do sacraments today.

Stasiak, OSB, Kurt, **Sacramental Theology: Means of Grace, Way of Life (Catholic Basics: A Pastoral Ministry Series)** Loyola Press, 2001



This book has a lot of background information on sacramental theology in general. The chapters on baptism and Eucharist are longer. However, the rest of the sacraments each just get a few pages. There are reflection questions on the end of each chapter.

Santa, Thomas M., **The Essential Catholic Handbook of the Sacraments: A Summary of Beliefs, Rites, and Prayers, A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication.** Liguori, 2001



Short, concise, just the basics. A fine companion to the books above too. There is a little bit of history and well as prayers and meditations

All are available in electronic or paper format. Check amazon, the book publisher site or your favorite bookseller.

I'll also give you the sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and the US Catholic Catechism, for Adults from the US Bishops on the sacraments. Again, you don't have to do it all, but it'll be a good reference.

