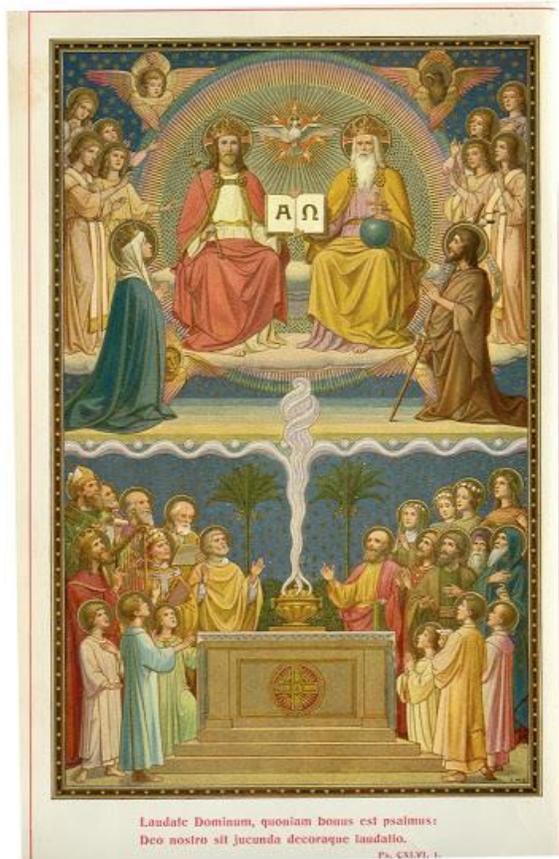


LITURGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

At the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, we regularly celebrate two forms of the Roman rite, known as the ordinary (or modern) and the extraordinary (or ancient) forms. Beyond the Roman rite, there are other authentic liturgical rites in the Catholic Church. Here are some excerpts from the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** that validate the diversity in form of the Sacred Liturgy.



1200 From the first community of Jerusalem until the parousia, it is the same Paschal mystery that the Churches of God, faithful to the apostolic faith, celebrate in every place. The mystery celebrated in the liturgy is one, but the forms of its celebration are diverse.

1201 The mystery of Christ is so unfathomably rich that it cannot be exhausted by its expression in any single liturgical tradition. The history of the blossoming and development of these rites witnesses to a remarkable complementarity. When the Churches lived their respective liturgical traditions in the communion of the faith and the sacraments of the faith, they enriched one another and grew in fidelity to Tradition and to the common mission of the whole Church.[66]

1202 The diverse liturgical traditions have arisen by very reason of the Church's mission. Churches of the same geographical and cultural area came to celebrate the mystery of Christ through particular expressions characterized by the culture: in the tradition of the "deposit of faith,"[67] in liturgical symbolism, in the organization of fraternal communion, in the theological understanding of the mysteries, and in various forms of holiness.

Through the liturgical life of a local church, Christ, the light and salvation of all peoples, is made manifest to the particular people and culture to which that Church is sent and in which she is rooted. The Church is catholic, capable of integrating into her unity, while purifying them, all the authentic riches of cultures.[68]

1203 The liturgical traditions or rites presently in use in the Church are the Latin (principally the Roman rite, but also the rites of certain local churches, such as the Ambrosian rite, or those of certain religious orders) and the Byzantine, Alexandrian or Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Maronite and Chaldean rites. In "faithful obedience to tradition, the sacred Council declares that Holy Mother Church holds all lawfully recognized rites to be of equal right and dignity, and that she wishes to preserve them in the future and to foster them in every way." [69]

We profess a Church that is **one, holy, catholic, and apostolic**. In the Diocese of Knoxville, our tradition is the Roman rite, but the Byzantine rite is also celebrated regularly. Though diverse in our liturgical expressions, we are still united by the one Holy Spirit across the world.



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