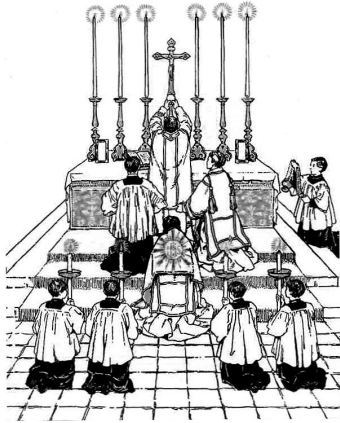


# Two Different Traditions; One Catholic Church

## Roman Catholic Church



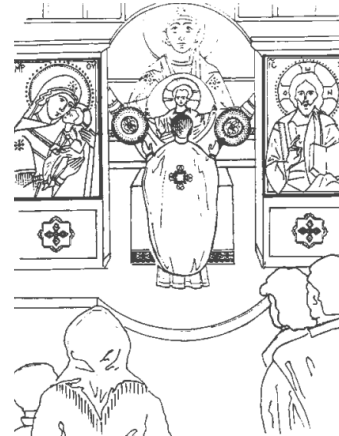
The Mass is focused on the Last Supper and the Sacrifice of Calvary. All action is focused on the celebrating Priest at the altar. The congregation acts together to sing, pray, chant, or kneel. Movement around the Church or private devotions are discouraged so as not to distract from the Sacrifice.

The Priest is seen as an *alter Christus* (another Christ) ministering to his people. Mass may be celebrated facing East or facing the people.



Prayers are kept simple, not usually repeated. The service of the Liturgy is kept "simple" in the sense that the ministers perform only those signs and actions necessary for the accomplishment of the rite.

## Byzantine Catholic Church



The Divine Liturgy is focused on the Heavenly Liturgy and Christ's Resurrection, as well as his presentation of his Sacrifice before the Father in Heaven. Many actions happen at one – singing, censing, bows, prostrations. The faithful may move around the Church lighting candles or kissing icons throughout the Liturgy.

The Priest represents the people before the Throne of God. The Divine Liturgy is only celebrated facing East.



Prayers are repeated and sung. There is a lot of movement; many senses are used to get the whole self (mind and body) involved in worshipping God.

**Is one tradition better than the other? No! Both Traditions are good, and *both* are Catholic! The faith is the same, but we express it differently.**

## Roman Catholic Church

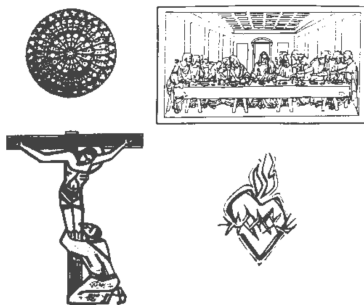
A cantor or schola sings the chants of the Mass, while a choir may sing polyphonic or choral settings of the Liturgy. The congregation may sing the responses of the Mass with the schola and will join in singing hymns before, during, and after the service. Organs and sometimes orchestras or symphonies accompany the singing. Our chant tradition is called *Gregorian Chant* after Pope St. Gregory the Great.



Steeple and verticality in Church buildings emphasize humanity's reach upward toward God and our ascent toward Heaven.

We kneel to show reverence to Christ in the Eucharist. Prostrations are reserved for the Ordination of Priests and Deacons.

Icons and other Western religious art, especially statues, are used to decorate Churches. Typically, only an altar rail (or in some Churches, a Rood Screen) separates the altar from the nave.



## Byzantine Catholic Church

The entire congregation, led by a cantor, sings the chants of the Liturgy. Choral music and hymns are used infrequently. Instruments are seen as distractions. The human voices singing in unison mirror the Choir of the Angelic Hosts gathered in worship around the Throne of God. Our chant tradition is called *Prostopinije* (plain-chant), which is heavily influenced by Kievan, Galician, and Bulgarian music, as well as Carpathian folk-music.



Domes represent God bending the heavens to be with us as he incarnates as the God-Man Jesus Christ.

We stand on Sundays because Christ is Risen. We kneel and prostrate throughout Lent as a sign of penance.

Icons express the public teaching of the Church and are placed in specific locations within the Church. Icons are windows into Heaven. A wall of icons called an *iconostasis* separates the altar from the nave.



**Eastern and Western Catholics can show respect for one another by learning more about each other. We have the same Catholic faith, but we express it in different ways.**

## Roman Catholic Church

Unleavened bread (azymes) and grape wine are used in the Holy Eucharist. The elements are received separately (though *intinction* is allowed).



Infants are Baptized, but Confirmation and first Holy Communion are saved until the age of reason or later.

Theology is rational and systematic.



The Pope is the guarantor of unity. Dioceses are under his jurisdiction.

The Anointing of the Sick is given only in danger of death.

Mary as Virgin and Mother. We relate to her sharing in the earthly life of Jesus.



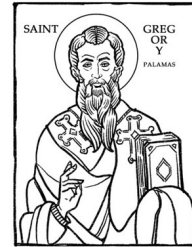
## Byzantine Catholic Church

Leavened bread (prosphora) and grape wine are used in the Holy Eucharist. The elements are received together from the chalice via a spoon.



Infants are Baptized, Chrismated (Confirmed), and Communed within one service and continue to receive the Holy Eucharist throughout childhood.

Theology is experiential and mystical.



Synods of Bishops govern their respective Eparchies (Dioceses). The Pope is the the Supreme Pontiff, but his authority is mediated through the Synod.

The Holy Mystery of Anointing may be administered to all the faithful once a year, as well as in danger of death.

Mary as Theotokos or Mother of God since Christ is God. She stands at the head of all of God's creation.



**Eastern and Western Catholic approach, teach and celebrate their faith differently, but they share the same Catholic Faith. Our Traditions compliment, rather than contradict, each other.**