

Sacrament or Ordinance?

The Latin *sacramentum* is a translation of the Gk. word *mysterion* and is used to describe the rites of the Church. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, sacraments are acts which “give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith.” (Cat. Cath. Ch. 2:2.1202). It is believed that the sacraments infuse grace *ex opere operato*, that they grant grace in their performance. “A distinctive sacramental grace is imparted by each of the seven sacraments, corresponding to their respective purpose in the supernatural life of the soul.” (*Mod. Cath. Dict.* s.v. “sacramental grace”).

An ordinance, on the other hand, is an act which the church has been commanded by Christ to perform. They have no grace attached to their observance. They are instead substantive symbols. They represent the very real presence of Christ among the believers that compose the church. Hence, there are two ordinances. We partake in baptism by immersion at the beginning of our journey with Christ, when we first come to faith (Matt 28:18–19; Acts 2:38, 22:16; Rom 6:3–5) and then we regularly partake in the Lord's Table, representing our continued journey with Christ (Matt 26:26–29; 1 Cor 11:17–34).

At Bedford Road, it is our belief that grace is given solely by Christ's justification of the believer, without any operation by which we can add to it. The ordinances Christ gave us are powerful acts of obedience but have no saving power in themselves.

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Financial Summary

2023 Budget	\$224,885	Budget to Date	\$4,325
Weekly Budget	\$4,325	Giving to Date	\$5,105

A full financial report for the partial fiscal year May-Dec 2022 will be available by January 31. Thank you again to all for your generous stewardship. You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at bedfordroad.org/giving.



*Creating environments where people
encounter Jesus and journey together*

