

St. Therese Catholic Church

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According to the Catechism, the Seven Sacraments of the Church, which influence all the stages and every important moment of Christian life, are broken down into three segments: The Sacraments of Christian Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments at the Service of Communion and the Mission of the Faithful.

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation, which lay the foundation of Christian life, consist of three Sacraments:

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The second division of the Sacraments, called the Sacraments of Healing, which focus on forgiveness and restoration, include two Sacraments:

4. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation – “It is called *sacrament of conversion* because it makes sacramentally present Jesus’ call to conversion the first step in returning to the Father from whom one has strayed by sin. It is called *sacrament of Penance*, since it consecrates the Christian sinner’s personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction. It is called the *sacrament of confession*, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound

sense, it is also a ‘confession’ – acknowledgment and praise – of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful man. It is called the *sacrament of forgiveness*, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent ‘pardon and peace.’ It is called the *sacrament of Reconciliation*, because it imparts to the sinner the love of God who reconciles: ‘Be reconciled to God.’ He who lives by God’s merciful love is ready to respond to the Lord’s call: ‘Go first be reconciled to your brother.’” (Catechism 396-397)

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The third allotment of the Sacraments, the Sacraments at the Service of Communion and the Mission of the Faithful, which centers on consecration, ministry toward others, and the fortification of the family unit, consists of two Sacraments:

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