

Lesson 14 - The Worship of Catholicism: Celebrating With Symbols And Rituals

Sacraments, symbols and rituals are important part of Catholic life.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is Faith?

Answer: Faith is a belief in the existence of God. A gift of God by which one freely accepts Church teaching regarding the revelation of God and the love of God and neighbour. It is matter of both the Head and of the Heart.

2. What are Religious beliefs and practices?

Answer: Religious beliefs and practices are attempts by various traditions to find words, gestures, practices, traditions, statements of belief, prayer forms and countless other means to express, share and celebrate the faith relationships that bind them together.

3. What is a SYMBOL?

Answer: Symbols are physical objects or things to which we connect special meaning and significance. Symbol expresses something connected to our feelings that we cannot see (Examples: Fire - light, anger, love etc).

4. What are RITUALS?

Answer: Rituals are symbols that include actions, gestures or movement. A short definition of ritual is “symbolic action”.

5. What are the Symbols of Faith representing Catholic Identity called?

Answer: Sacramentals are Symbols of Faith representing Catholic Identity.

6. Which are some of the Catholic Symbols of Faith?

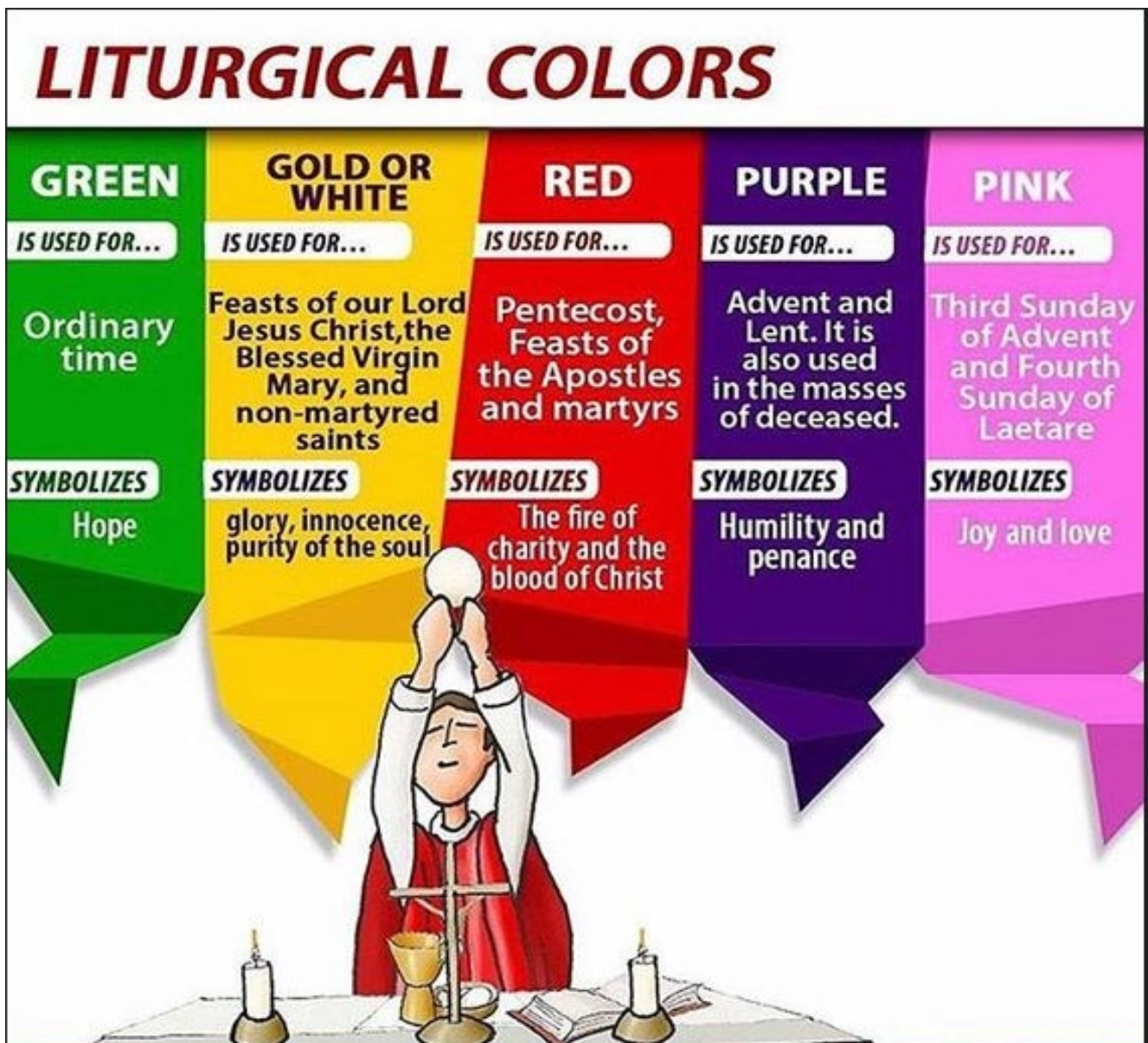
Answer: Each of the below Symbols represent Catholic identity and they are part of the liturgical celebrations of the church and the private devotions:

- I. Sacred vessels such as Chalice, Ciborium, Cruets, Altar bells, Host & Paten are used during the Eucharistic celebration.
- II. Thurible in which incense is burned, during Holy mass and adoration.
- III. Monstrance in which the consecrated eucharistic host (the sacramental bread) is carried in processions and is displayed during certain devotional ceremonies.
- IV. Sacred vestments such as Chasuble & Stole is used by priests during Eucharistic Celebration and
- V. Lectionary - Readings from Scripture are part of every Mass. At least two readings, one always from the Gospels, (3 on Sundays and solemnities) make up the Liturgy of the Word. In addition, a psalm or canticle is sung.
- VI.

7. What does the different colors of Priest' sacred vestments (Chasuble and Stole), used during Eucharistic Celebration, symbolizes?

Answer: The different vestments colors symbolizes:

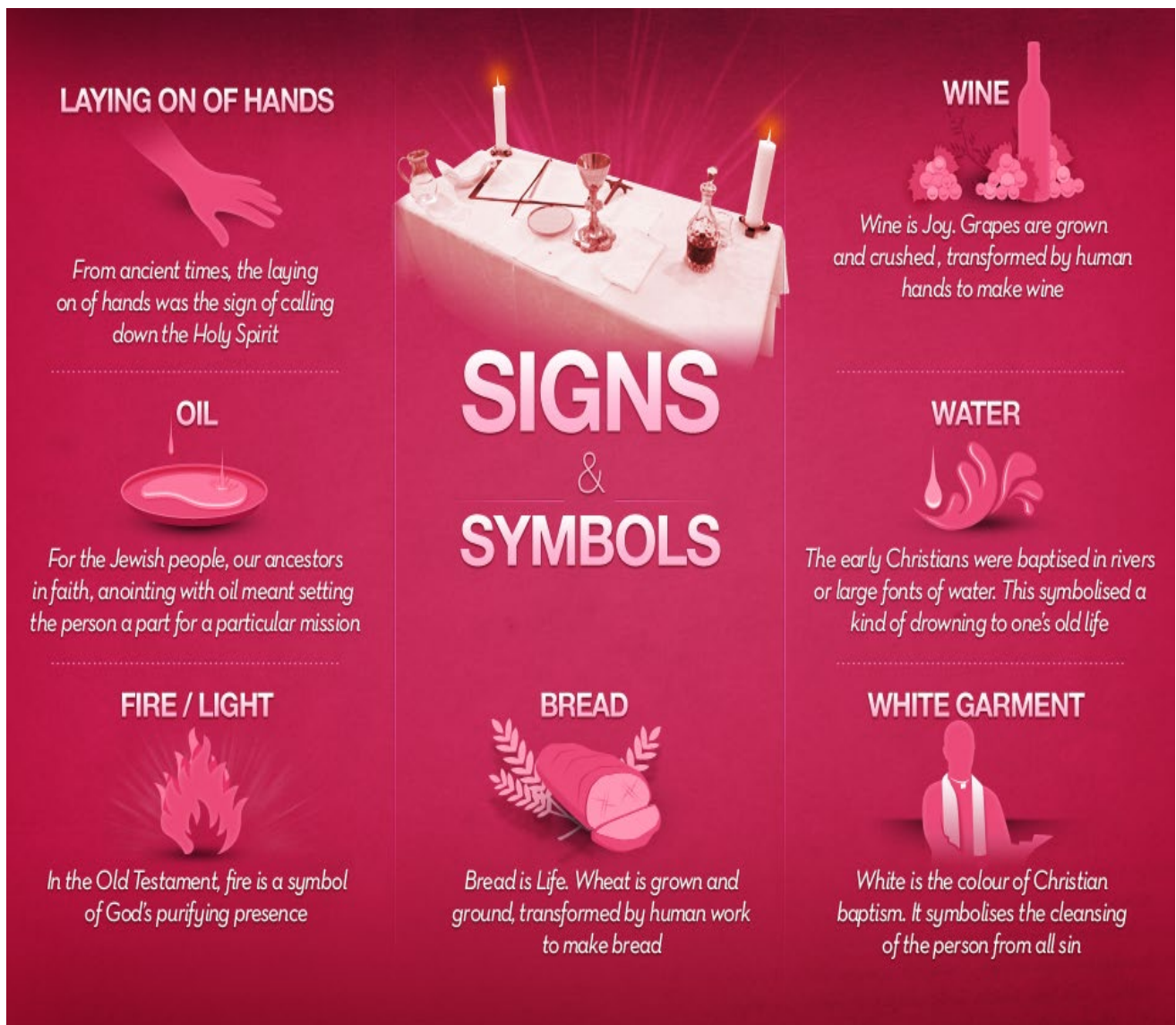
- Green: is a color of Hope - used on all days that have no special color of their own.
- Red: color of blood - used on Feasts of the Passion of Our Lord; on Pentecost because of the tongues of fire; for Apostles and Martyrs because they shed their blood for Christ.
- White: means joy and purity - used on all joyful Feasts of Our Lord, Our Lady, and for Confessions.
- Purple: is a sign of Penance - used in Advent and Lent.



GESTURES AND ACTIONS - THE ASSEMBLY

Focusing ourselves

Sometimes a physical gesture or posture helps us to focus our mind for what is at hand and upon God's Word. Bowing, kneeling, folding one's hands and the Sign of the Cross, help us to focus our body and soul for prayer and worship.



LAYING ON OF HANDS

From ancient times, the laying on of hands was the sign of calling down the Holy Spirit

OIL

For the Jewish people, our ancestors in faith, anointing with oil meant setting the person apart for a particular mission

FIRE / LIGHT

In the Old Testament, fire is a symbol of God's purifying presence

BREAD

Bread is Life. Wheat is grown and ground, transformed by human work to make bread

WINE

Wine is Joy. Grapes are grown and crushed, transformed by human hands to make wine

WATER

The early Christians were baptised in rivers or large fonts of water. This symbolised a kind of drowning to one's old life

WHITE GARMENT

White is the colour of Christian baptism. It symbolises the cleansing of the person from all sin

SIGNS & SYMBOLS