

G.R.A.C.E.

**Topic for January:
Early Years of Christianity**

Early Church

Given to church at Pentecost, images include flames of fire, Holy Spirit reverses confusion of languages that began at Babel (Gen 11:1-9), Channel through which to forward The "Jesus Movement", confers gifts and charisms, life force of church

Present Time

Advocate, helper, moves through us to carry on Jesus' ministry here on earth, enables church to carry on mission, Confers gifts and charisms, soul of church

← **Holy Spirit** →

Smaller house churches, celebrate remembrance of Last Supper; shared hymns, lessons, revelations; collection for church in Jerusalem; celebrated call from God that transcended ethnic, social, and gender differences.

Larger buildings with altars; gather as community, hear God's word, sing hymns, experience sacraments; ordained priests consecrate Holy Eucharist, collection for Roman Catholic Church.

← **Worship** →

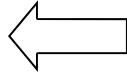
Proclaim gospel to ends of earth, suffered persecution and martyrdom in service of Christian mission, opened "the Way" to Gentiles.

The Church's mission includes being that witness to the Gospel throughout the world while still respecting other faiths.

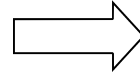
← **Mission** →

Early Church

Each person is endowed with different gifts from the Holy Spirit to use for the common good to make up the whole Body of Christ

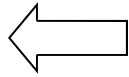


Charisms

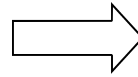


Charisms remain very much the same, although the intensity and shape of those charisms may be experienced differently.

All positions united for building up of ministries: apostles, prophets, teachers, works of mighty deeds, assistants, administrators, those who speak in tongues, and interpreters, overseers, deacons, presbyters (elders).

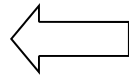


Authority

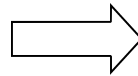


As church grew in numbers a more organized structure was needed to preserve unity, teachings, and scripture.

Each apostolic community had their own stories and traditions about who Jesus was, seen through the new knowledge of the Resurrection.

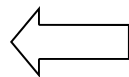


Jesus/ Scripture

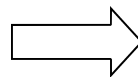


The Church has an agreed upon canon of Scripture that represents the authentic understanding of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection for all communities.

Baptism preparation, or the catechumenate stage, was long in duration. Adults were mostly the recipients with full immersion as the norm.



Baptism



RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) has re-emerged, although infant baptism is common. Baptism can be experienced either by pouring of water over head or by immersion.