This document:

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL, 
Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [CSL], Sacrosanctum concilium [SC], 
4 December 1963,

was a watershed for the Catholic Church and the Christian world. It was the first document of the Council and was issued toward the end of the second session. This constitution sets out the reform of the Liturgy, the liturgical books, and the very life of the Church.

In the 50 years since this Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy was promulgated by Pope Paul VI, many authors have written about it and its impact on Church life. These pages highlight some worthy resources and worthy writing. For each work, there is the usual bibliographic information, a publisher link, recommended uses, and a synopsis. There is also a list of KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY from each author’s perspective. There are differences and overlaps in these lists. But these Keys will provide valuable summaries for study, for formation, for assessment, and for the ongoing work of the liturgical reform.

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♦ CSL AND OTHER LITURGICAL DOCUMENTS ♦


♦ CSL AND OTHER CONCILIAR DOCUMENTS ♦

Page 18  Catholic Theological Union. Rediscovering Vatican II. Now You Know Media, 2013. 8 DVD Set.
Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [CSL], Sacrosanctum concilium [SC], 4 December 1963.

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL] translation of CSL, as well as the English translations of the ritual books for Liturgy, is the standard translation used in liturgical works. It is found in these and other publications:

List: $69.95
Hardcover: 6½ x 9, 1,511 pp

LTP Order Code: LD1V5
Price: $30.00
Paperback, 7 x 10, 672 pages

LTP Order Code: LD2V2
List Price: $25.00
Paperback, 7 x 10, 512 pages

The 50th Anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: A Parish Celebration.
Order Code: CSLC
Price: $19.95
DVD and CD-ROM
OUTLINE

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This pastoral commentary examines the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* article by article. It addresses the theological, historical, and pastoral implications of the implementation of the liturgical reform. It is still the most important and foundational document and provides the lens from which all other liturgical documents should be interpreted. Parish staffs and volunteers will find the questions for discussion and reflection extremely helpful for ongoing liturgical practice, implementation, and renewal.

Authors include: Joshua Brommer; Joseph DeGrocco; Michael S. Driscoll; David W. Fagerberg; Mark Francis, CSV; Genevieve Glen, OSB; Philip J. Horrigan; Steven R. Janco; Corinna Laughlin; Paul Turner; Mark P. Wedig, OP; Joyce Ann Zimmerman, CPPS.

**KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY**
Forward by Archbishop Gregory Aymond – pp. vii-xiii
Areas of diocesan and parish life impacted by CSL:

1. **The Vernacular**
   - Enabling richer conversation and deepening spirituality through easily available texts; plus new music to fit new words

2. **Sacred Scripture**
   - Expanding use and number of biblical texts led to expanding Catholic biblical literacy; Liturgies of the Word; interpreting the Word in liturgical and paschal context

3. **The Divine Office [The Liturgy of the Hours]**
   - Enhancing those who use it “to attune their minds to their voices when praying it”

4. **The Liturgical Year**
   - Focusing on Sunday, on Paschal Mystery, on Christ

5. **A Simplification of Rubrics**
   - CSL, no. 34: returning to noble simplicity…

6. **Reverence**
   - “…that some of the changes…did not so much lead to a loss of reverence as much as make the lack of reverence in some individuals more apparent…that reverence and mystery and splendor…fostered by [the reformed rites]…arise from a spirituality rather than from a ritual text”
This is an incredibly valuable resource permitting the parish to use the contents in a variety of formats.

**The DVD** contains short videos about the liturgy that can be posted to the parish website or played at religious formation sessions or other parish gatherings. Also on the CD-ROM for streaming. Includes directions on posting to parish website.

- The Sacred Council – *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* [CSL], no. 1 [4:06]
- The Paschal Mystery – CSL, no. 6 [5:42]
- Sound Tradition – CSL, no. 23 [4:06]
- Sacraments and Sacramentals – CSL, no. 61 [5:50]
- Sacred Scripture – CSL, no. 24 [6:14]
- Full, Conscious, and Active Participation – CSL, no. 14 [5:40]
- Noble Simplicity – CSL, no. 34 [4:34]
- The Liturgical Instruction of the Faithful – CSL, no. 19 [5:36]
- So Exalted a Ministry – CSL, no. 29 [5:25]
- Sacred Music – CSL, no. 112 [5:54]
- Sacred Art – CSL, no. 122 [4:51]
- The Public Prayer of the Church – CSL, no. 90 [4:20]

**The CD-ROM** contains a study guide on the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* for parish groups, complete with a leader’s guide and discussion questions; handouts for liturgical ministers, children, and teens; and bulletin inserts on the constitution, liturgical pioneers, and the Vatican Council. Most items are given in two formats: well designed PDF and WORD format of text only for ease in copy-paste to bulletins and other parish publications. Components:

- For Parishioners – 1 page handouts
  - 6 Vatican II Handouts; 13 Liturgical Pioneer Handouts, and 52 Bulletin Inserts
- For Children and Teens
- For Liturgical Ministers
- For Study Groups
- Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Text
- Videos for Streaming (also on the DVD)
KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY – 52 Bulletin Inserts:

1. **BAPTISM & PASCHAL MYSTERY**
   “. . . by baptism, all are plunged into the paschal mystery of Christ: they die with him, are buried with him, and rise with him” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 6)

2. **CHRIST PRESENT IN LITURGY**
   “Christ is always present in his Church, especially in its liturgical celebrations” (CSL, 7)

3. **CHRIST PRESENT IN CELEBRANT**
   “[Christ] is present in the sacrifice of the Mass . . . in the person of his minister” (CSL, 7)

4. **CHRIST PRESENT IN MASS AND EUCHARIST**
   “[Christ] is present in the sacrifice of the Mass . . . especially under the eucharistic elements” (CSL, 7)

5. **CHRIST PRESENT IN SACRAMENTS**
   “By his power [Christ] is present in the sacraments” (CSL, 7)

6. **CHRIST PRESENT IN WORD**
   “[Christ] is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church” (CSL, 7)

7. **CHRIST PRESENT WHEN CHURCH PRAYS AND SINGS**
   “[Christ] is present . . . when the Church prays and sings” (CSL, 7)

8. **CHURCH IS LORD’S BRIDE**
   “The Church is the Lord’s beloved Bride” (CSL, 7)

9. **WORSHIP & MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST**
   “In the liturgy the whole public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ” (CSL, 7)

10. **LITURGY IS SACRED ACTION**
    “Every liturgical celebration . . . is a sacred action surpassing all others” (CSL, 7)

11. **FORETASTE OF HEAVENLY LITURGY**
    “In the earthly liturgy we take part in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy celebrated in the holy city of Jerusalem” (CSL, 8)

12. **PILGRIM PEOPLE**
    “We journey as pilgrims” (CSL, 8)

13. **CALLED TO FAITH AND CONVERSION**
    “Before people can come to the liturgy they must be called to faith and conversion” (CSL, 9)

14. **SUMMIT AND FOUNT**
    “The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed . . . the fount from which all the Church’s power flows” (CSL, 10)

15. **ONE IN HOLINESS**
    “The liturgy . . . moves the faithful, filled with ‘the paschal sacraments,’ to be ‘one in holiness.’” (CSL, 10)

16. **SETS FAITHFUL ON FIRE**
    “The renewal in the eucharist . . . draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire” (CSL, 10)

17. **HUMAN SANCTIFICATION**
    “The liturgy is the source for achieving . . . human sanctification and God’s glorification” (CSL, 10)

18. **PROPER DISPOSITIONS**
    “It is necessary that the faithful come to [the liturgy] with proper dispositions” (CSL, 11)

19. **FULL, CONSCIOUS, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION**
    “The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations called for by the very nature of the liturgy” (CSL, 14)
20. RIGHT AND DUTY BY BAPTISM
   “Such participation by the Christian people as ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people’ (1 Peter 2:9; see 2:4–5) is their right and duty by reason of their baptism” (CSL, 14)

21. ZEAL AND PATIENCE
   “With zeal and patience pastors must promote the liturgical instruction of the faithful and also their active participation in the liturgy” (CSL, 19)

22. PASTORS MUST PROMOTE
   “Pastors must promote . . . active participation in the liturgy both internally and externally” (CSL, 19)

23. EXPRESS HOLY THINGS
   “Texts and rites should . . . express more clearly the holy things they signify” (CSL, 21)

24. SACRED SCRIPTURE
   “Sacred Scripture is of the greatest importance in the celebration of the liturgy” (CSL, 24)

25. INVOLVE WHOLE BODY OF THE CHURCH
   “Liturgical services involve the whole Body of the Church” (CSL, 26)

26. IMBUED WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LITURGY
   “[Lay liturgical ministers] must all be deeply imbued with the spirit of the liturgy” (CSL, 29)

27. PEOPLE TAKE PART
   “The people should be encouraged to take part” (CSL, 30)

28. REVERENT SILENCE
   “At the proper times all should observe a reverent silence” (CSL, 30)

29. GOD SPEAKING
   “In the liturgy God is speaking to his people and Christ is still proclaiming his gospel” (CSL, 33)

30. FAITH IS NOURISHED
   “The faith of those taking part is nourished” (CSL, 33)

31. MARKED BY NOBLE SIMPLICITY
   “The rites should be marked by a noble simplicity” (CSL, 34)

32. MORE READING FROM SCRIPTURE
   “There is to be more reading from holy Scripture” (CSL, 35)

33. PREACHING
   “Preaching [is] . . . a proclamation of God’s wonderful works in the history of salvation” (CSL, 35)

34. USE OF MOTHER TONGUE
   “The use of the mother tongue . . . may be of great advantage to the people” (CSL, 36)

35. INSTITUTION OF SACRIFICE
   “Our Savior instituted the eucharistic sacrifice of his body and blood . . . in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross . . . until he should come again” (CSL, 47)

36. SACRAMENT OF LOVE…PASchal BANQUET
   “A sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet” (CSL, 47)

37. NOT SILENT SPECTATORS
   “Christ’s faithful . . . should not be there as . . . silent spectators” (CSL, 48)

38. BIBLE OPENED MORE LAVISHLY
   “The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly” (CSL, 51)

39. INTERCESSION
   “Intercession shall be made . . . for all people, and for the salvation of the entire world” (CSL, 53)
40. SINGLE ACT OF WORSHIP
“The liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the eucharist . . . form but one single act of worship” (CSL, 56)

41. PURPOSE OF SACRAMENTS
“The purpose of the sacraments is to make people holy” (CSL, 59)

42. SACRAMENTS AND FAITH
“The sacraments . . . nourish, strengthen, and express [faith]” (CSL, 59)

43. CATECHUMENATE
“The catechumenate for adults . . . well-suited instruction, may be sanctified by sacred rites” (CSL, 64)

44. LITURGY OF THE HOURS
“[Through the divine office] the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praises of God” (CSL, 84)

45. PRAYER WITH CHRIST
“[The divine office] is the very prayer that Christ himself, together with his Body, addresses to the Father” (CSL, 84)

46. YEAR UNFOLDS WHOLE MYSTERY OF CHRIST
“Within the cycle of a year . . . the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ” (CSL, 102)

47. MARY
“In [Mary] the Church holds up and admires . . . that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be” (CSL, 103)

48. SACRED SONG
“Sacred song . . . forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy” (CSL, 112)

49. SINGING
“A liturgical service takes on a nobler aspect when the rites are celebrated with singing” (CSL, 113)

50. SING TEXTS FROM SCRIPTURE
“The texts intended to be sung . . . should be drawn chiefly from holy Scripture and from liturgical sources” (CSL, 121)

51. SACRED ART
“Sacred art . . . [turns] the human spirit devoutly toward God” (CSL, 122)

52. STYLES FROM EVERY PERIOD
“The Church . . . has admitted styles from every period, according to the proper genius and circumstances of peoples” (CSL, 123)
Reverend Joshua R. Brommer, STL.

Imbued with the Spirit of the Liturgy: Ten Insights from Vatican II’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.
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This booklet puts in context ten insights from the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy that shaped the Liturgy we celebrate today. Contains photos, magazine-like design of the interior make its 64 pages quite digestible, and questions for reflection and discussion at the end of each section. The sections:

- Where Were You during the Second Vatican Council?
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- The Calling of the Council
- The Growing Momentum: The Liturgical Reform Movement before the Council
- Building on the Liturgical Movement: The Council Begins with the Liturgy
- Exploring the Ten Insights
- Implementation
- Always Reforming
- A Gift with Bold and Lasting Impact

**KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY**

1. The **Paschal Mystery** (Christ’s saving Death and Resurrection) is the central focus of every liturgy.
2. The principle of **sacramentality** supports all of Catholic life. (Sacramentality is the awareness that God uses physical things to communicate spiritual power and grace which shape our human life.)
3. **Reflection on the thought and practice of the early Church** is essential to reinvigorating the liturgy.
4. The principle of **noble simplicity** guides the arrangements and celebration of the liturgy.
5. The **Sacred Scripture** holds an esteemed place in the liturgy and shapes the words and actions of every celebration.
6. **Full, active, and conscious participation** is the right and duty of the assembly and enables the faithful to receive the riches of the liturgy.
7. By virtue of their Baptism, the laity are invited to participate in **ministerial roles** in the liturgy.
8. **Catechesis about the liturgy** is vital at all levels.
9. The Church continually promotes and guides the **work of musicians, artists, and architects** in service to the liturgy.
10. The **Liturgy of the Hours**, the “Prayer of the Church,” sanctifies day and night and is recommended to everyone.
This is the 2012 Madeleva Lecture in Spirituality for Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame IN. Contends that the "full, conscious, and active participation" envisioned by Vatican II does not simply apply to our involvement in the Liturgy. Rather, it is a commitment we make to personal involvement in the life of the Church and its continuous coming to be in this present age.


**KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY**

1. **The heart of every liturgical celebration is the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ for the life of the world and our participation in one or another facet of that event.**

2. **From this, it follows that** all members of the assembly, priestly people through Baptism, and members of the Mystical Body of Jesus, are co-presiders with Christ, the one and only high priest and leader of prayer.

3. **In the Liturgy Christ is present in many ways – in the bread and wine, in the word proclaimed, in the ministers, and, not least, in the assembly gathered for prayer and praise.** In other words, we make Christ present to each other when we come together.

4. **Sacraments are thus both intensive and extensive over time.**

5. **The “grace” of the sacrament is God’s self-communication in love.**

6. **To our outward ritual participation must be joined the habit of interior presence and assent.**
Viewers of this sixty-minute DVD will hear scholars and liturgists from across the United States tell the story of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, starting with those who paved the way for liturgical reform and continuing with the early implementation and today’s ongoing mining of the depths of the document.

**KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY**

1. *Was not written in a vacuum*
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3. *Increased use of Scripture at Mass and its impact*
4. *How the Liturgy nourishes us for our work in the world*
5. *Liturgy as the “summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount from which all the Church’s power flows”* [no. 10]

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**KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY**

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2. *Structural revision of liturgical texts* [nos. 21 and 23]
3. *Most important, recognition that the Liturgy is the work of Christ himself and the Church is most fully realized when Eucharist is celebrated* [nos. 5-10]
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**KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY**

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This workbook also contains worksheets for users to (1) name additional good practices to foster, (2) name additional dangers to avoid, (3) assess current parish practice, and (4) list dreams for parish improvement as a way to establish parish priorities.

In addition to the eight basic principles for Liturgy found in CSL, nos. 1-14, there is list of 24 strategies for good Liturgy gleaned from the rest of CSL. The website allows printing the entire workbook or selecting each principle separately.

**KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY**

Eight Basic Principles for the Promotion, Reform, and Good Celebration of the Liturgy

1. Liturgy celebrates the paschal mystery (the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension) as the redeeming work of Jesus Christ the Lord. CSL, no. 5.
2. Liturgy celebrates the many ways Christ is present in the Church. CSL, no. 7.
3. Liturgy, through the power of Christ, makes people holy. CSL, no. 7.
4. Liturgy prepares and leads the Church to the heavenly life with God. CSL, no. 8.
5. Liturgy invites believers to live the Christian life: a life grounded in catechesis, community, worship and liturgy, and service. CSL, no. 9.
6. Liturgy is both the summit and the fount for the Church. CSL, no. 10.
7. Liturgy requires the faithful to have proper dispositions and pastors to realize the law is not enough. CSL, no. 11.
8. Devotional prayer is always in harmony with liturgical prayer. CSL, no. 13.

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**Keys to the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy**

1. **Participation** – See no. 14
2. **The Paschal Mystery** – See no. 6
3. **Inculturation** – See no. 37

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KEYS TO THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY

1. Participation – See no. 14
2. The Paschal Mystery – See no. 6
3. Inculturation – See no. 37

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Rite of Confirmation: Introduction
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