

Two Different Traditions — One Catholic Church —

ROMAN RITE TODAY

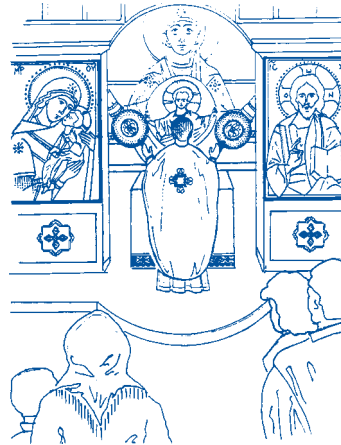
Priest faces people across the altar.



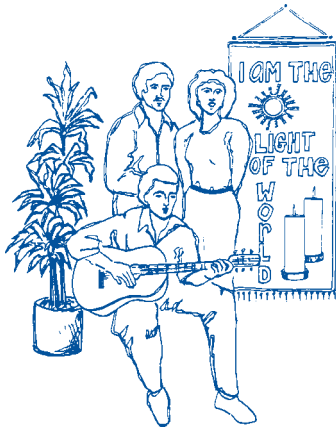
The image is: gathering around the Lord's table here and now.

BYZANTINE RITE TODAY

Priest faces East, towards altar along with the people.



The image is: leading the people to the Heavenly Liturgy in God's Kingdom.



We like things that are new and modern, and use them in worship, too. Church buildings and services today use things from present everyday life and culture.

Prayers are kept simple, not repeated. Great care is taken to give the whole text of the service in programs or missalettes, so that the mind can grasp things clearly.



We like things that we have received from our ancestors. Services and church buildings, even new ones, are based on traditional and timeless models.

Prayers are repeated and sung. There is a lot of movement; many senses are used to get the whole self (mind and body) involved in worshipping God.

***IS ONE TRADITION BETTER THAN THE OTHER? NO!
BOTH TRADITIONS ARE GOOD, AND BOTH ARE CATHOLIC!***
The faith is the same, but we express it differently.

*Byzantine Catholics include people of the following ancestry: Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Macedonian, Melkite (Middle Eastern), Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, but also many others.

Different – Yet The Same

Two Traditions, But One Catholic Church

ROMAN RITE TODAY

There is a more relaxed feeling, very down to earth, using a lot of contemporary music. Liturgy has the feel of a shared celebration.
Emphasis: God is here with us, so go and live this out in the world.

~LITURGY~

BYZANTINE RITE TODAY

The use of dramatic music and actions tries to lift people up to experience a 'taste of Heaven'.
Emphasis: This is what God has in store for us in Heaven, so go and live this out in the world right now.

New Churches are usually built in a very simple style, with little adornment, and only a few pieces of art, to fit into the modern world and reflect modern tastes.



Emphasis: Each generation responds to God in its own way, and our current styles and fashions can give glory to God, just as the past styles did.

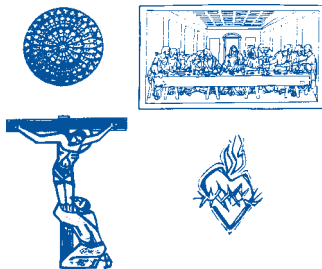
~CHURCH BUILDINGS~



Even new churches with modern lines usually have domes and a lot of icons, emphasizing that traditions which the Church developed over the centuries are still meaningful today in the modern world.

Emphasis: God has been with us through the centuries. Even though things change, God's love – and our response – are always the same, yesterday and today.

Contemporary artists are encouraged to let their individual experience of God come through their art. This encourages creativity and artistic freedom, but cuts down on the common ownership and understanding of this religious art by others.



Emphasis: Many different styles of art help us to express what God's love means for us.

~CHURCH ART~



Emphasis: There are things about God's love which we have all experienced and understand together.

EASTERN AND WESTERN CATHOLICS CAN SHOW RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER BY LEARNING MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER.
We have the same Catholic faith, but we express it in different ways.

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When Thinking Of Major Catholic Doctrines

WESTERN (ROMAN) CATHOLICS FOCUS ON:

The Oneness of God,
who is also three Persons.

~ TRINITY ~

The Humanity of Christ invites us,
but He is also Divine.

~ CHRIST ~

The Pope is the guarantor of unity.
Dioceses are directly under his
jurisdiction.

~ CHURCH ~

Mary as Virgin and Mother.
We relate to her sharing
in the earthly life of Jesus.

~ MARY ~

EASTERN CATHOLICS FOCUS ON:

God as three Persons,
who are also One.

The Divinity of Christ inspires us,
but he is also human.

Bishops in SYNODS (in communion)
with the Pope guarantee
the unity of the Church.

Mary as THEOTOKOS or Mother
of God since Christ is God.
She stands at the head
of all of God's creation.

Model: Lord's Supper;
down to earth atmosphere;
clear messages;
with simple words;
very frugal use of symbols;
focus on the here and now;
beauty in simplicity;
use of various musical
instruments in the liturgy.

~ LITURGY ~

Model: Heavenly Liturgy;
cosmic realities;
subconscious, holistic,
more use of senses;
repetition as a way into the deeper self;
focus on eschatology (i.e. – heaven on earth);
beauty in its fullness;
liturgies sung from beginning to end – the
human voice is the most important instrument.

More linear;
either – or;
often prefer juridical,
philosophical clarity
to poetic synthesis.

~ THINKING ~

More symbolic;
more paradoxical;
both – and;
prefer poetic synthesis to
philosophical analysis.

St. Peter

Social justice issues
flow from Christ's
humanity.
We act towards one another
as Jesus of Nazareth did.



St. Andrew

Social justice issues
flow from the communion
of the Trinity.
The Trinitarian community
of love is a model for us.

Eastern and Western Catholics approach, teach and celebrate their faith differently, but they share the same Catholic Faith.

EASTERN AND WESTERN CATHOLICS DO NOT CONTRADICT EACH OTHER. THEY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.

*The Catholic Church includes not only the large Roman Church, but also many self-governing Eastern Catholic Churches: Armenian, Chaldean, Coptic, Geez (Ethiopian-Eritrean), Maronite, Syrian, Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara and a number of Churches of the Byzantine-Constantinopolitan family.