Seven Practical Ways to Live out our Faith

When we are looking into the Catholic church, it can look very different at first glance. The smells and bells, the vestments, the statues and holy artwork, the genuflecting…. It can be overwhelming. When it comes to what it means to be Catholic, we have to go back to the basics. *Slide* **Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

*Slide*

1. **Mass**

* Source and summit of our Faith is the Eucharist
* Everything starts here. *Slide*
* Sacramental Life – this includes receiving other sacraments (baptism, confirmation, reconciliation, marriage, holy orders, anointing of the sick) *Slide*
* Living Liturgically – The liturgical calendar, feast days,
* UNITY
* *Slide*

1. **Prayers**

* This is where we build our relationship with God.
* Praying for each other
* *Signing yourself in public*
* *Novenas*
* *Devotionals*
* *Asking for the intercession of the saints*
* *Slide*
* UNITY
* *Slide*

1. **Scripture**

* How we hear God’s voice
* The story of salvation *Slide,* verse
* *Slide,* apostolic succession
* *Slide,* Plug for Bible in a Year with father Mike
* *Slide* Catholic books not in a protestant Bible
* *The Catholic Bible has more books than a protestant Bible*
* UNITY
* *Slide*

1. **Service**

* Our faith isn’t just personal, we are called to serve others
* Soup kitchen volunteer
* Making rosaries for those in need
* Blessing bags
* Serving your family
* *Slide*
* Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy
* UNITY
* *Slide*

1. **Share**

* We share our faith – Jesus said to take the Gospel to everyone
* We share the Love of God
* *Slide* verse
* UNITY *Slide – go therefore verse*
* *Slide*

1. **Gratitude**

* When we share with others, we are grateful that we have something to share.
* We count our blessings
* UNITY is something to be grateful for
* *Slide*

1. **Joyful**

* When we realize we have so much, we are truly happy.
* We are a resurrection people. We have so much to be joyful about!
* UNITY makes us joyful
* *Slide*

BONUS: When you do these things, you will start to show up differently.

You will:

* Showing others that you are a Christian instead of telling them
* Start asking yourself “What do you consume?” (movies, music, books, the internet)
* Do you hide your faith? Do you pray in a restaurant beginning with the sign of the Cross? Are you afraid of family or friends judging you for being Catholic?