

***Liturgies:**

1) What are “liturgies”? Is that...Church?

Well, that depends on what one means by “church.” While we are all “church” in the broad sense of our dignity as special creations and people of God, La Salle does not take the place of a parish. Liturgies on campus are organized for special feast days and other occasions and are typically celebrated by clergy from the Diocese of Yakima and La Salle High School Campus Ministry staff. Liturgies themselves are organized ceremonies of worship and prayer that can take a different forms, but the term typically refers to Mass (the celebration of Word and Eucharist that represents the very heart of life in Catholicism). In other words, liturgy is prayer that transforms us (as individuals and as a community), heals us, and elevates us; liturgy is a celebration of our identity as Catholic educational community; additionally, the celebration of Eucharist in liturgy is a unique and beautiful opportunity that represents the source and summit of our lives in the Church.

2) Does a student have to be Catholic to participate?

Like all things at La Salle, liturgies are school-wide event that is open to and inclusive of all students. All are welcome, always. Non-Catholic and Catholic students alike can greatly benefit from the opportunities for prayer, reflection, and community that liturgies offer. Even at the time of Holy Communion (Reception of the Eucharist), non-Catholic students are invited and strongly encouraged to participate by coming to receive a special blessing.

3) What is a parish? Is La Salle one?

A parish is defined by the Catholic Church as “...a definite community of the Christian faithful established on a stable basis within a particular church; the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop.” (CIC can. 515-1). Put simply, a parish is an official Catholic community within a diocese that is under the direction of a pastor and is attached to a church building (think Holy Family, St. Paul Cathedral, St. Joseph, Holy Redeemer, etc.).

While La Salle is Catholic community by the nature of it being a Catholic school, **it is not a parish**. Our mission is to provide a quality human and Christian education to all students; we do not take the important place of the parish community.

4) Are there any other Sacraments celebrated at La Salle?

Because La Salle is not a parish, we do not provide sacraments or in any way take the place of the vital pastoral role parishes provide. Masses are celebrated on our campus as a special function of the Diocese of Yakima for special days, and clergy from our local parishes preside over and preach at those celebrations. All other sacraments (including regular weekly or daily Mass) and sacramental preparation take place within our local parishes themselves.

5) Who do I talk to if I have more questions about liturgies at La Salle?

Liturgies are a part and function of Campus Ministry at La Salle, so the questions are best directed at the Director of Campus Ministry. Kevin Jam is happy to respond to any questions and can be reached at 509-225-2931, or at kjam@lasalleyakima.org.