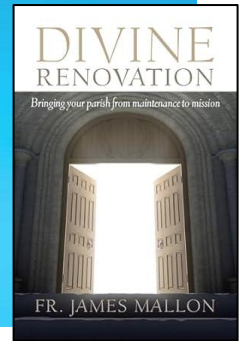


# Week 7 JOY

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 5:1–12 (The Beatitudes)



**DIVINE RENOVATION BOOK READING:** Chapter 6: The Front Door, The Sacraments as Our Greatest Pastoral Opportunity (p. 197–232)

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sacraments are meant to be rooted in discipleship. They are to have a connection with conversion, profession of faith, and fruitfulness, not just mere routines. (p. 199–203)
- When we consider those who seek sacraments, we should ask ourselves if having a true encounter with Jesus is important to us and if we are willing to change to ensure that can happen. “The mission of our Church is to make disciples, not to celebrate good liturgy or keep people happy. Sacraments are given to us to initiate and sustain believers into discipleship.” (p. 208)
- There is an opportunity to review and enhance our baptismal preparation, confirmation preparation, marriage preparation and RCIA programs with the goal of helping people encounter Jesus and to help them on a path to discipleship. (p. 210–232)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does it look and feel like to receive a sacrament in your parish? What do the sacraments mean to the recipient of the sacrament, their loved ones, and to the parish community?
- What can you do to further the mission of the Church? What specific steps will you take to move in that direction?
- **Working with children:** How do catechesis, sacramental preparation, and youth activities form disciples and engage the whole family? If these actions are not forming disciples, what is getting in the way? How does your parish actively follow up?
- **Marriage preparation:** How does accompanying couples through marriage preparation form them for a life of discipleship? If the process is not forming disciples, what is getting in the way? How does the parish accompany couples after their marriage ceremony to live a life of discipleship?
- **OCIA:** How does your OCIA program and sacramental preparation for adults form disciples? If it is not forming disciples, what is getting in the way? How does your parish connect them to parish life?

Please join us for any of our small groups (below). You may attend a different one each week as your schedule permits. Free books available at parish offices. Please e-mail [parishcollaboration44113@gmail.com](mailto:parishcollaboration44113@gmail.com) to submit your thoughts on this chapter if you can't attend a group.

### Sundays

11:00am  
St. Malachi  
Hall

### Mondays

10:00am  
St. Malachi  
Meeting Room

### Tuesdays

6:00pm  
Via ZOOM

### Wednesdays

6:10pm  
St. Patrick – Faith Form.  
Conf. Room

### Saturdays

8:30am  
St. Patrick – Faith Form.  
Conf. Room