



VATICAN II



Proclaiming the Joy and Hope of Christ to the Modern World

A PARISH VIDEO STUDY WITH PROF. LUCAS POLLICE, MTS

PARTICIPANT STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Vatican II: Proclaiming the Joy and Hope of Christ to the Modern World!

For nine sessions, we will rediscover the true teaching and vision of Vatican II - and rediscover the New Evangelization for our world today.

Vatican II provides a pastoral vision and renewal that is the foundation for the New Evangelization. The documents of Vatican II reveal a renewal of the mission of the Church to bring Christ to the modern world. The Council shows how every Catholic is called through their Baptism and Confirmation to continue the saving mission of Christ in the world today.

The Council took place from 1962-1965 - but the "event" of Vatican II lasted until the end of Benedict XVI's papacy, who was the last pope to be present at the Council itself. This means that the Church is still unpacking and implementing the Council. This also means that it's important for Catholics to understand what the Council really was. While there have been many "spirits" of the Council that claim authority apart from the actual teachings of the Council documents, it's important to understand the true teaching and vision of the Council.

If you look at any of the previous 20 ecumenical councils, it always takes at least 50-100 years for the dust to settle in the life of the Church after the council. Popes from St. John Paul II to Francis have insisted that there needs to be a rediscovery of the true spirit of the Council by the reading of the documents themselves, as interpreted and implemented in the life of the Church by the Magisterium.

This course is intended to help you do just that!



EPISODE LIST

Session 1 - What is the Real Vatican II?

Scan to access videos!



Session 2 - The Missionary Renewal of Vatican II

Session 3 - The Documents and Themes of the Council

Session 4 - *Lumen Gentium*: The Church Renewed for Mission

Session 5 - *Dei Verbum*: The Word of God in the Life of the Church

Session 6 - *Sacrosanctum Concilium*: The Source and Summit of the Christian Life

Session 7 - *Gaudium et Spes*: Joy and Hope for the Modern World
(TO BE RELEASED OCTOBER 29, 2025)

Session 8 - The Implementation of the Council in the Life of the Church
(TO BE RELEASED NOVEMBER 19, 2025)

Session 9 - The New Evangelization: The Extraordinary Mission of Our Time
(TO BE RELEASED DECEMBER 17, 2025)

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR EACH SESSION

Opening Prayer: Each session begins with the opening prayer that was used to commence Vatican II.

Class Outline: The outline gives you a brief high-level overview of the session.

Video: Each 45-60 minute video provides a teaching on a different topic or aspect of Vatican II.

Discussion Questions: These questions will help spark further discussion for a small group - or inspire deeper reflection if you're taking the class on your own!

Closing Prayer

Living It Out: This section provides a starting point for some practical ways to live out the teachings of Vatican II.

Going Deeper: Further reading recommendations to help you learn more about the topics being covered.



SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM:

THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



OPENING PRAYER

Prayer of Vatican II

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.
Come to us, remain with us,
and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength
to know your will,
to make it our own,
and to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and
Son.

You desire justice for all;
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favor.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name, may we temper
justice with love,
so that all our discussions and reflections
may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful servants.
We ask this of You who live and reign with the
Father and the Son, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

CLASS OUTLINE

I. Understanding Liturgical Reforms and Tradition

- The liturgy as the summit of the Church's activity, and the source of mission and unity
- Hermeneutic of rupture vs. the true teachings of the Council regarding the liturgy
- The reasons for the restoration of the liturgy were active participation and missionary renewal.
- Liturgy is the public worship of the Church through which Christ is really present and working.
- The Liturgy takes us to the heavenly sanctuary and the heart of the Trinity.
- The Liturgy re-presents Sacrifice of Calvary.

II. Liturgy and the Mission of the Laity

- The baptismal priesthood: We offer ourselves with Christ to be transformed by grace for mission (See *Lumen Gentium* 34).
- S.W.I.F.T. Principles of Participation: sacrificial, worship, informed, faithful, transformed for mission.
- Ongoing liturgical catechesis is crucial for active participation and fruitful reception of grace.
- What the Council taught about the use of Latin, sacred music, and sacred art and furnishings



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it crucial to read *Sacrosanctum Concilium* in light of the whole of Vatican II and in continuity with Tradition?

2. In *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the liturgy is called the "source and summit" of the Christian life. Why is this so?

3. Why was the laity's full and active participation in the liturgy so important to the Council Fathers? How does our participation in the liturgy change when we understand what the liturgy is? Why is active participation so important in the laity's role in sanctifying the world?

4. What are the ways in which Christ is really present and working in the liturgy? What are the two places that the liturgy takes us to?

5. What does *Sacrosanctum Concilium* say about the use of Latin, sacred music, and sacred art and furnishings? Did this surprise you? Why are these aspects of the liturgy important?

CLOSING PRAYER

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
Separated from you, let me never be;
From the evil one protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me;
That with your saints,
I may be praising you forever and ever.
Amen.



The Crucifixion - Giotto
(c. 1311-1320, Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, Assisi, Italy)

LIVING IT OUT

Consider the concept of full and active participation in the liturgy and the baptismal priesthood. This week at Sunday Mass, be especially attentive to the words and prayers and reflect on them in light of what you have learned today. At the Offertory, bring an intention to the Lord, whether that is a sorrow, joy, struggle, fear, hope or dream. Imagine putting that intention on the altar as a participation in Christ's sacrifice to the Father. After Mass, ask the Lord how he wants you to be renewed for mission.

GOING DEEPER

- *Sacrosanctum Concilium* - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
- Fr. Blake Britton, *Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church* - Chapter 3
- George Weigel, *To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II* - Chapter 12

FOR THE NEXT CLASS

- *Gaudium et Spes*: Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World