

THE ORDER OF THE MASS

The first part of the Mass is about getting to know everyone and welcoming everyone to God's house. It's called the *INTRODUCTORY RITES*.

(Stand)

Entrance Song—We sing to celebrate that we are gathered together with Jesus Christ and one another.

Greeting—We make the sign of the cross as the Priest says:

“In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

We respond: Amen.

The Priest welcomes everyone with these or other words:

“The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

We respond: And also with you.

God forgives us for all the things we do bad, so together we pray:

I confess to Almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words in what I have done and what I have failed to do, and I ask the Blessed Mary, ever virgin, and all the angels and saints and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

GLORIA

We praise God. We sing or say together:

Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks
We praise you for Your glory.
Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father.
Receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER:

The Priest then says a short prayer.

We respond: Amen.

(Sit)

During this part of the Mass, we listen to God's word from the Bible. The Bible readings tell us how much God loves and cares for us.

FIRST READING

We listen to a reading from the Old Testament.

At the end of the reading, the lector or reader says:

“The word of the Lord”

We respond: Thanks be to God.

After the first reading, a psalm is read or sung. We say or sing a response.

SECOND READING

We listen to a reading from the New Testament.

At the end of the reading, the lector or reader says:

“The word of the Lord”

We respond: Thanks be to God

(Stand)

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

As we stand for the reading of the gospel, we join in singing Alleluia. The Alleluia is a song of praise to God.

During Lent, instead of the Alleluia, we say other words of praise, such as: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

GOSPEL

In the gospel, we hear the good news of Jesus. Before proclaiming the gospel, the Deacon or Priest says:

“The Lord be with you”

We respond: And also with you.

The Deacon or Priest says:

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____”
(Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)

We respond: Glory to you, Lord.

As we say this, we bless ourselves three times by making a small cross on our foreheads, on our lips and on our heart. By doing this, we are acknowledging that Christ is with us in our thoughts, in the words we speak, and in our hearts.

At the end of the gospel, the Deacon or Priest says:

“The Gospel of the Lord”

We respond: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Sit)

HOMILY—We listen while the Priest or the Deacon helps us to understand the Bible readings. We call this part of the Mass the homily.

(Stand)

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

In the Nicene Creed, we say what we believe as members of the Catholic Church.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God
Eternally begotten of the Father
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.
Through him all things are made
For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate
He suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day, He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the
world to come. Amen.

(Stand)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

In this prayer, we pray for the Church and the leaders of the Church, for our Country's leaders and world leaders, for all those in need and for the salvation of the whole world.

After each prayer, we respond with these or other words:

Lord, hear our prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

(Sit)

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

At the Offertory, our gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. Our gifts for the Church and the poor may also be brought forward at this time.

The Priest thanks God for the gift of bread.
We pray: Blessed be God forever.

The Priest then prays that our gifts, our sacrifice, will be acceptable to God, the Father.

We respond: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and for the good of all His Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

The Priest asks God to accept our gifts. At the end of the prayer we respond: Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We join with the Priest to give thanks and praise to God.

The Priest begins by praying: "*The Lord be with you*"

We respond: And also with you

The Priest says: *“Lift up your hearts”*

We respond: We lift them up to the Lord

The Priest says: *“Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God”*

We respond: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Then we sing all together:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

(Kneel)

As the Priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer, we remember what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper.

The Priest takes the bread and says the words of Jesus:

“Take this, all of you, and eat it.

“This is My Body which will be given up for you.”

The Priest holds up the consecrated Host which is now the Body of Christ.

Then the Priest takes the chalice, the cup of wine, and says the words of Jesus:

“Take this, all of you, and drink from it.

This is the cup of My Blood,

the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant.

It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in memory of me.”

The Priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine that is now the Blood of Christ.

What looks and tastes like bread and wine is **NOT** bread and wine anymore.

By the power of the Holy Spirit and through the words and actions of the Priest, the bread and wine have **BECOME** the Body and Blood of Jesus. Jesus is **REALLY** present in the Eucharist.

Then the Priest asks us to proclaim our faith. We respond with these words:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

The Priest and the people continue to pray. Then the Priest raises the paten (a small round dish that holds the Body of Christ), and he raises the cup that holds the Blood of Christ. The Priest prays:

*Through Him, with Him, in Him
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
almighty Father, forever and ever.*

We respond: Amen.

(Stand)

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Together, with the Priest, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

The Priest says a prayer, and then we pray together:

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Rite of Peace

The Priest prays that Jesus will give us the gift of peace.

We respond: Amen.

The Priest says: "*The peace of the Lord be with you always.*"

We respond: And also with you.

We then offer a sign of peace to the people around us by turning to them and saying:
Peace be with you.

(Stand)

Breaking of the Bread

We sing or say together this prayer for God's mercy and peace.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

As we pray the Lamb of God, the Priest breaks the consecrated Host which has become the Body of Christ.

HOLY COMMUNION

Now we prepare to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

The Priest says:

"This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to His supper."

Together with the Priest, we pray:

"Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed."

We sing a song as we come forward to receive Holy Communion.

When we stand in front of the Priest or the Eucharistic minister, we bow our head. The Priest will say: *"The Body of Christ"*

We respond: Amen.

The Host will be placed either in your cradled hand or on your tongue.

We return to our seat and join in the Communion song. We remember that Jesus is present within us. We thank Jesus for the gift of Himself in Holy Communion.

The Priest invites us to pray and says a brief prayer.

We respond: Amen.

HOW TO RECEIVE JESUS IN HOLY COMMUNION

When we receive the consecrated Host, this is what we do:

We walk to the altar with hands joined.

We think about Jesus whom we will receive.

As our turn comes, the Priest or Eucharistic Minister raises the Host, and we bow our head.

When we hear the words, “Body of Christ”, we respond “Amen”.

After the Host is placed in our hand or on our tongue, We swallow the Host and return to our seat.

We **NEVER** walk away from the altar with the Host in our hands.

CONCLUDING RITE

(Stand)

At the end of the Mass, the Priest asks God to bless everyone who is present.

The Priest says: “*The Lord be with you.*”

We respond: And also with you.

Blessing

The Priest prays:

“*May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*”

We respond: Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Priest or the Deacon then says:

“*The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*”

We respond: Thanks be to God.

As we leave the Church to go to our homes and schools, we are reminded to live as one of Jesus’ disciples, and whenever you have a problem, ask yourself...

“What would Jesus do?”

MY QUESTIONS ABOUT MASS

If you have questions about things that happen in Church or during Mass, write them down, and we'll get answers for you. Be sure to hand your questions in to the office the next time you go to Religious Education or you can put your questions in the basket at Mass. Answers to your questions will appear in the bulletin.

For Example...

"Why does the Priest wear different colors at different times?"

"Where does Holy Water come from?"