

RCIA: The Mass

- Opening Prayer (pg. 4 of Common Catholic Prayers and Devotions in your binder):

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.

- **Song:** Gather Us In (#303)

- **The Mass:**

“At the Eucharist, the Church comes together to hear the Word of the Lord, to pray for the world’s needs, to offer the sacrifice of the Cross in praise and thanks to God, to receive Christ Jesus in Communion, and then to be sent forth in the Spirit as disciples of the Gospel. Through the experience of these sacred mysteries in the liturgy, the “summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed,” the people of God are renewed and given new strength to live out the Christian faith daily.

- “In the earthly liturgy we take part in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy...”
- “...in the liturgy, the whole public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Christ, that is, by the Head and His members.”

- Sacrosanctum Concilium

- **Catechism references for further reflection:**

- Eucharist as the Source and Summit of the Christian Life: CCC 1324
- Eucharistic Celebration commanded by Jesus: CCC1341-1344
- Historical Celebration of the Eucharist: CCC 1345-1347
- Liturgy of the Word: CCC 1349
- Enduring presence of Christ in the Eucharist: CCC 1377

- Parts of the Mass:

- Introductory Rites - As the Church gathers, “the faithful, who come together as one, establish communion and dispose themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.”

- Liturgy of the Word – The Lectionary and the Book of the Gospels open the rich treasure of God’s word from the Jewish and Christian Scriptures. In order to present as much of the Sacred Scriptures to the faithful as possible, the Church has established a three year cycle for Gospel readings from the synoptic Gospels. In “Year A,” the Church emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew. In “Year B,” the Church emphasizes the Gospel of Mark. In “Year C,” the Church emphasizes the Gospel of Luke. We are finishing Year B this month and will start Year C with the first week of Advent next month.

The Sunday readings from Sacred Scripture typically include a reading from the Old Testament, a psalm, a reading from the New Testament (often from one of the Epistles), and a reading from one of the Gospels, depending on what “year” we are in of the three year cycle. Following the Gospel, the priest or deacon preaches a homily to break open the Word of God and to help us apply God’s Word to our lives today. Then, after hearing God’s Word, we acknowledge our acceptance of His teaching by making the “Profession of Faith”. Finally, we unite our prayers and needs with those of the entire Church and the world in our Prayers of the Faithful.

- Liturgy of the Eucharist – The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts. The Priest then says the Prayer over the Offerings followed by the Eucharistic Prayer – the high point of the Mass in which the bread and wine actually become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Priest then invites us to join in the Lord’s Prayer followed by exchanging the Sign of Peace. We then are invited to come forward and receive Holy Communion.

(CCC 1324) The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” “The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.”

- The Concluding Rites – We then receive the final blessing and the Deacon or Priest dismisses us to bring our Lord out into the world.

- Weekly Gospel Reading: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Lk 21:5-19)

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here-- the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him,

"Teacher, when will this happen?
And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"
He answered,
"See that you not be deceived,
for many will come in my name, saying,
'I am he,' and 'The time has come.'
Do not follow them!
When you hear of wars and insurrections,
do not be terrified; for such things must happen first,
but it will not immediately be the end."
Then he said to them,
"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues
from place to place;
and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

"Before all this happens, however,
they will seize and persecute you,
they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons,
and they will have you led before kings and governors
because of my name.
It will lead to your giving testimony.
Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,
for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking
that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.
You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends,
and they will put some of you to death.
You will be hated by all because of my name,
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.
By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Lectio Divina

- 1. Lectio:** Read the passage slowly, perhaps several times. Let a phrase or two catch your attention.
- 2. Meditatio:** Reflect on the meaning of the words you have chosen. How is God speaking to you through this reading?
- 3. Oratio:** Raise your mind and heart to God, using the message of this reading.
- 4. Contemplatio:** Rest quietly in the presence of God.
- 5. Actio:** Resolve to change your life in some positive way.

- **Closing Prayer**