

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

- **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: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mk 8:27-35)**

Jesus and his disciples set out
for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.
Along the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"
They said in reply,
"John the Baptist, others Elijah,
still others one of the prophets."
And he asked them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
Peter said to him in reply,
"You are the Christ."
Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them
that the Son of Man must suffer greatly
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and rise after three days.
He spoke this openly.
Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples,
rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan.
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,
"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake
and that of the gospel will save it."

- **Closing Prayer**