

Catechist Corner

*Saint Joseph and Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Parish Communities
Cecilia, Louisiana*

Jesus, the Mass, and You ***A Walk Through the Parts of Holy Mass*** *(Introduction to a series)* *October 20, 2024*

Why a series on the parts of Mass?

1.) A better question could be, why not a series on the Mass? Have you ever found the prayers and motions involved in the Mass difficult to follow? Maybe you are new to the Church or have been away for some time. The constant kneeling, sitting, standing, and praying can feel like the Catholic version of the Macarena. Have the parts of Mass become so familiar and habitual that the ritual loses its meaning? Has Mass become routine?

2.) This series is intended to reawaken some of the deep spiritual meaning that can be overlooked. In this *"Year of the Mass,"* we'll get a taste of how the parts and prayers of the Mass flow together. Last but not least, we'll see how parts of the Mass flow from and lead to Our Divine Lord.

3.) During the Second Vatican Council, the Church called for *"a full active and conscious participation in the liturgy."*¹ This participation goes beyond fulfilling our Sunday duty to attend Mass. Active participation means praying and living, not just saying and hearing the Mass. Active participation in Mass is the source of our baptismal calling and our vocation to be living witnesses to Christ in the world. Active and conscious participation at Mass is the developing and living the priesthood of the laity.

4.) Our series will break down the Mass into five general parts. The purpose here is to get a "big picture" view of the Mass, not an exhaustive work of theology and history. Before jumping into the individual parts, here are a few points to consider for reflection.

- Holy Mass connects the People of God with their vocation as witnesses in the world.
- Holy Mass is a sacrificial meal of fellowship with God and our brothers and sisters.

¹ *Sacrosanctum Concilium, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #14, Second Vatican Council, 1963*

- Holy Mass strengthens and perfects our call to holiness in Christ.
- Holy Mass is ultimately the action of the Holy Trinity and the People of God.
- Holy Mass is the most intimate and personal encounter with Our Lord.
- Holy Mass is a summary of the whole of Christian life.

5.) The five parts will be presented as follows.

I. Introductory Rites. The Procession, Penitential prayer, the Gloria, opening prayer, and intentions.

II. Liturgy of the Word. The Readings, Homily, and Credo of Faith and Prayers for the Church

III. Liturgy of the Eucharist – Presenting the gifts, Eucharistic Prayers and Consecration, and Intercession Prayers.

IV. Communion Rite – The Lord's Prayer, Rite of Peace, Invitation, and Communion.

V. Concluding Rite – The final blessing and commissioning.

“May the Lord increase in you, a thirst for His Precious Blood and a hunger in your soul for the Bread of Life. May you come to know His merciful and loving presence. May you live in Him as He lives in you.”

*Timothy Andries
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