

## The Catholic Mass

The Four Parts of the Mass	Notes
<b>I. Introductory Rites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bell may be rung to announce commencement of the Mass</li> <li>• Or music may commence prior to the Procession</li> </ul>
Procession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “Celebrant” (priest or bishop), Minister/s, and/or Servers “process”, or approach the altar, which is in the sanctuary</li> <li>• The sanctuary recollects of the Holy Temple at Jerusalem</li> <li>• All show reverence for the altar by bowing before and the priest may kiss the altar</li> </ul>
Entrance Chant or Antiphon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If music is sung during the Procession, the refrain is the antiphon and the verses from a Psalm.</li> <li>• Or, upon greeting the altar, the priest (celebrant) will recite the antiphon, which the people may join in reciting.</li> </ul>
Greeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign of the Cross</li> <li>• “The Lord be with you”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priest greets the faithful with the Sign of the Cross</li> <li>• The people reply to the priest with “<i>And with your spirit</i>” which affirms the “real presence” of Christ</li> </ul>
Penitential Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priest says, “<i>Let us acknowledge our sins</i>” to which the people recite the “Penitential Act”</li> <li>• the people recollect their sins and place their trust in God’s mercy</li> <li>• The priest then offers a prayer for “absolution”</li> </ul>
<i>Gloria</i> : Glory to God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “Gloria” recognizes God’s presence and petitions &amp; praises the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Holy Trinity)</li> <li>• The “Gloria” prayer was sung by the angels at Christ’s birth</li> </ul>
Collect (opening prayer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priest calls upon the people to pray</li> <li>• After a moment of silence (“to collect”), the priest</li> <li>• The Collect is directed to “God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit”</li> <li>• The “Collect” is a prayer for eternal life in Heaven in union with the Trinity</li> </ul>
<b>II. Liturgy of the Word</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings from the Old Testament, Epistles and the Gospel, along with recitation of a Psalm</li> <li>• The first three Readings and Psalm may be read by a Lay Lector</li> <li>• The Gospel is read by the priest or deacon</li> <li>• The three Readings have a common theme, all pointing to the “Life in Christ”</li> <li>• “The Word” is Jesus Christ</li> <li>• The people respond to each reading to acknowledge and praise the Lord (“Thanks be to God,” “Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ”)</li> </ul>
First Reading: Old Testament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Reading is from the Old Testament and connects to its fulfillment in the Gospel Reading</li> </ul>
Responsorial Psalm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The people recite a refrain between verses which are read by the Lector</li> </ul>
Alleluia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• or a chant, such as “Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ”</li> <li>• Alleluia means “Praise the Lord”</li> </ul>
Second Reading: New Testament epistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsorial Psalm teaches us to pray &amp; listen to God</li> <li>• Second Reading is from the “Epistles” or “letters” from the Apostles</li> </ul>
<b>Gospel Reading: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Gospel” means “the good news”; it is the “Word of the Lord”</li> <li>• The Priest “stands” for Christ while Reading the Gospel</li> <li>• When the priest introduces the Gospel, all make a Sign of the Cross on the</li> <li>• Follows <a href="#">Mk 4:14</a> “The sower sows the word”, thus sealing the Word of the Lord on our minds, lips and heart:</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>temple</u>: to keep our thoughts on the Word of God</li> <li>• <u>lips</u>: that our lips may proclaim the Word of God</li> <li>• <u>heart</u>: that we embrace the Word of God</li> </ul>
Homily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Homily is for catechesis (teaching of the Readings) and to ask the people to respond to Christ in their lives (pastoral)</li> <li>• <a href="#">2 Tim 4:2</a> “proclaim the word... through patience and teaching”</li> </ul>
<b>Profession of Faith (Creed)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Profession of Faith”, from the Nicene or the Apostles’ Creed, states our core beliefs as Christians and Catholics</li> <li>• It is customary to bow at the mention of the “Incarnation” (Jesus born of Mary)</li> </ul>
"Universal Prayer"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also called "Intercessions" or "Prayer of the Faithful"</li> <li>• The Universal Prayer follows the Lord’s call to us to pray together</li> </ul>
<b>III. Liturgy of the Eucharist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "eucharist" is Greek for Thanksgiving</li> <li>• in the Mass, "Eucharist" means "the Lord's Supper"</li> <li>• the first portion of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is directed towards and prayer to God the Father</li> <li>• the priest stands for and in the <b>Real Presence of Christ</b></li> <li>• “And the Word became flesh” (<a href="#">Jn 1:14</a>)</li> </ul>
Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts – the “Offertory”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The people may bring to the altar the bread and wine to be consecrated and transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ</li> <li>• The people may also make monetary gifts (“the collection”)</li> <li>• During the collection, the priest, either audibly or inaudibly, commences the first of the Eucharistic Prayers, here to God the Father, asking that the bread and wine that “we offer you” will become the body and blood of Christ</li> <li>• If spoken aloud, the people respond to the prayer, “Blessed be God forever”</li> <li>• During the “Offertory” the people are to prepare their own sacrifice to God (what we believe, what we give, what we need what we give thanks for)</li> <li>• The priest then asks that the sacrifice being made be acceptable to God (“the secret prayer”), and washes his hands in Holy Water to “cleanse me from my sin” (from Psalm 51)</li> </ul>
Invitation to Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the priest invites the people to join the sacrifice and that it <i>“Pray, brethren [“Orate, fratres”], that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father”</i></li> <li>• the people stand and respond, <i>“May the Lord accept the sacrifice...”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Eucharistic Prayer</b>	<p>The purpose of the Eucharistic Prayer is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a prayer of praise and thanksgiving (the meaning of “Eucharist”)</li> <li>• an invitation to join together with Christ</li> <li>• repeats Jesus' words at the Last Supper</li> <li>• the people respond with various “acclamations”</li> </ul>
Preface Dialogue & Thanksgiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priest invites the people to join the sacrifice and to <i>“give thanks to the Lord our God”</i></li> <li>• The people respond that such thanks is <i>“Right and Just”</i></li> </ul>
Preface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a petition to the Father, the priest recites a prayer and petition for the Father to bless and accept the sacrifice in communion with all the Church and the Saints</li> <li>• <b>The sacrifice = Jesus Christ and us</b></li> <li>• The preface may include an acclamation of a particular “feast day” celebration</li> </ul>
<i>Sanctus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the preface, the priest extends his hands towards the people, as Jesus on the Cross</li> <li>• and asks the people to proclaim the “Sanctus,” a declaration of glory to God (“Lord God of hosts”): <b><i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts...</i></b></li> </ul>

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<i>Epiclesis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The people kneel</li> <li>• The Eucharistic Prayer continues, as the priest calls for the assistance of the Holy Spirit in the <i>epiclesis</i></li> <li>• <i>Epiclesis</i> = “invocation” (calling for assistance) to the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and wine and transform them into the Body and Blood of Christ</li> <li>• A bell may be rung once to mark the <i>epiclesis</i></li> </ul>
Institution Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Here Christ speaks through the Priest</li> <li>• And recounts his words at the Last Supper, starting with “<i>At the time he was betrayed...</i>”</li> <li>• And speaks the words of the Lord declaring his Body and Blood:</li> <li>• “<i>Take this, all of you, and eat of it... Take this, all of you, and drink from it...</i>”</li> </ul>
Consecration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the priest holds up the bread and the wine (in a “chalice”) and “consecrates” (makes holy) it</li> <li>• bells may be rung three times for the bread and the wine</li> <li>• here is the “transubstantiation” by which the bread and the wine have become the body and blood of Christ</li> </ul>
The Mystery of Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• also called the “Memorial Acclamation”</li> <li>• the priest speaks again in Christ, “<i>Do this in memory of me</i>”</li> <li>• = not a memorial or re-enactment, but the actual moment, in the Mass, of the Lord’s Supper</li> <li>• The people respond with one of the “Three Acclamations” that speak directly to Christ, proclaiming and celebrating his death, resurrection and second coming</li> </ul>
<i>Anamnesis</i> and Oblation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Anamnesis</i> = “memorial”</li> <li>• “oblation” = offering a sacrifice</li> <li>• The <i>Anamnesis</i> asks God to accept the offerings (our own sacrifice included)</li> <li>• The Eucharistic Prayer to the Father continues and reviews why we participate in the Eucharist and asks for unity of the people of God</li> </ul>
Intercessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The prayer calls for intercessions from and communion with all the Saints</li> </ul>
Concluding Doxology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Eucharistic prayer concludes with a “doxology” (words of praise)</li> <li>• The Doxology is an appeal for unity with and praise for the Holy Trinity</li> </ul>
Great Amen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Amen” = “so be it” and/or “it is so”</li> <li>• The Great Amen may be sung with usually two refrains of “Amen”</li> </ul>
<b>Communion Rite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In preparation to receive Holy Communion, as Jesus, at the Last Supper, invited us to join with him</li> </ul>
<b><i>Our Father</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priest invites the faithful to follow “the savior’s command” to recite the Lord’s Prayer</li> <li>• “We dare say” = we have the courage to acclaim “Our Father”</li> </ul>
Sign of Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the “Our Father” and “embolism prayer” (which the priest says to emphasize the Our Father prayer)</li> <li>• The priest recites to the Lord his words, “<i>Who said to the Apostles, Peace I leave you, my peace I give you</i>”</li> <li>• And may ask the people to give one another the “sign of peace”</li> </ul>
Fraction Rite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Fraction” = breaking = “breaking the bread,” as did Jesus at the Last Supper</li> <li>• The priest breaks the bread and drops a small piece into the chalice to mix with the wine, symbolizing the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ</li> </ul>
Lamb of God ( <i>Agnus Dei</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priest starts the people to recite, “Lamb of God”</li> <li>• The Lamb of God is the one perfect sacrifice</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Faithful are now to participate in that sacrifice themselves</li> </ul>
Invitation to Communion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The priest holds up the Host and the Chalice and states, "Behold the Lamb of God"</li> <li>= the words of John the Baptist</li> <li>Also recalls Pontius Pilate showing the flogged &amp; beaten Christ to the Jews, just before the final sacrifice, "Behold the man!" (<a href="#">Jn 19:5</a>)</li> </ul>
Reception of Communion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communion = "becoming one with the Body and Blood of Christ"</li> <li>The priest receives Holy Communion himself first, then all recite, or it is sung, the Communion Antiphon</li> <li>The celebrant/s and minister/s "distribute" the Host (and the Chalice in certain parishes and celebrations)</li> <li>The people "receive" (not "take") Holy Communion, as it is a grace and gift of God to participate in the sacrifice of his Son</li> </ul>
Cleansing the vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the Eucharist has been distributed, the priest places any leftover hosts into the Tabernacle</li> <li>And cleans the place and chalice, making sure that no crumbs or drops are left over</li> <li>He will then recite the "prayer after Communion," which will vary according to the Liturgy of the Word or a feast day</li> </ul>
Prayer After Communion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After a moment of silence following Communion during which the priest sits, he will stand and offer a final prayer that will vary</li> </ul>
<b>IV. Concluding Rites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While the Eucharist is the heart and center of the Mass, and the Liturgy of the Word is also the presence of Christ,</li> <li>The Concluding Rites are equally important, as here God sends us into the World to proclaim the Gospel</li> </ul>
Parish announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lector may now offer parish announcements or requests</li> </ul>
Final blessing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The priest then closes Mass with a final blessing</li> <li>And Sign of the Cross</li> </ul>
Sending forth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importantly, as did Jesus to the Apostles, the priest will send the faithful "forth" to "announce the Gospel" and glorify the Lord "by your life"</li> <li>The people respond, "<i>Thanks be to God</i>"</li> </ul>

## Misc. Vocabulary of the Mass

Absolution	Altar	Celebrant	Chalice
Congregation	Epistle	Eucharist	Feast / Feast Day
(the) Faithful	Genuflect	(the) Gifts	Gospel
Great Commission	Holy Trinity	Host	Incarnation
Lay / Lay Minister	Lector	Minister	Penitential / Penance
Real Presence of Christ	Sanctuary	Tabernacle	Transubstantiation