

Steps to the Catholic Liturgy

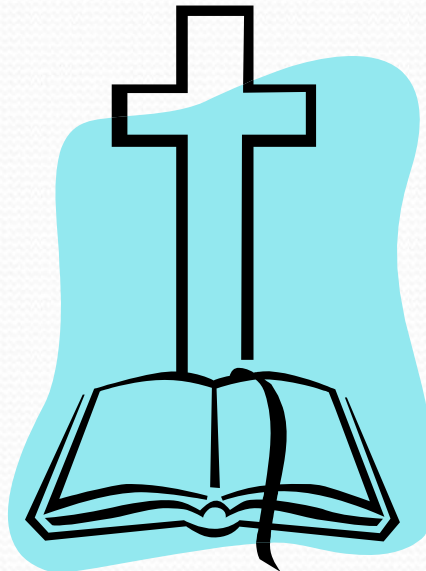
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Overview

- **Introductory Rites**
 - **As priest and deacons enter church**
- **Liturgy of the Word**
 - **Readings and Homily**
- **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
 - **Preparation for Communion**
- **Communion Rite**
 - **Communion distribution**
- **Concluding Rite**
 - **Announcements and Blessing**

Introductory Rites

- Priest enters with deacon and altar servers
 - Entrance hymn
- Sign of the cross
 - Act of Penitence to forgive sins (brief silence)
- Prepares you for the rest of mass



Liturgy of the Word

- Three Scripture readings
 - 1st is from the Old Testament
 - Followed by responsorial hymn, from the Psalms
 - 2nd is from the New Testament
 - Usually a letter from Paul to _____
 - Followed by an Alleluia hymn
 - 3rd is from the Gospels
 - All stand during reading
 - “The Gospel of the Lord””Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ”
- Then Priest or Deacon gives Homily
- Followed by the Nicene Creed
- Ended with Prayers of the Faithful
 - Presentation of parish’s prayers, followed by “Lord hear Our Prayer”

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Defined by interaction between the priest (preparer of Eucharist) and the parishoners (receivers of Eucharist)
- Priest prepares the bread and wine, then washes his hands
 - "Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father. . . . "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church."
- "May the Lord be with you..."
 - More dialogue between parish and priest
- Most important part: Institution Narrative and Consecration
 - Priest takes role of Jesus speaking to the Apostles at the last supper
 - During this time the bread and wine (as "Jesus" breaks and pours it) is converted into the body and blood.

Take this, all of you, and eat it:

***this is my body** which will be given up for you.*

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.

Communion Rite

- Starts with the Lord's Prayer with people raising their hands
 - Followed by:
 - Priest: "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."
 - People: "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever."
- Rite of Peace
 - Priest comments on Christ passing peace to apostles
 - Parishioners pass peace to those around them in symbolism
- Priest presents body and blood to the parish
 - "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper."
 - "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed."
- Priest receives communion, then row by row the parishioners receive communion

- *When back at your pew, it is customary to say a short prayer of thankfulness for the sacrifice*

Concluding Right

- Time following Communion is very short
- Announcements of the church are made
- Second special collections held if necessary
- Liturgical greeting
 - Priest imparts blessing with parishioners responding “Amen”
- Dismissal of the parish
 - “The mass has ended, let us go in peace to better love and serve the Lord”
 - “Thanks be to God”