

The Celebration of the Mass

Assumptions:

1) Christ acts in the Sacraments.

The post-Resurrection promise continues: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (John 20:21-23). (*see also MT 28: 18-20*)

2) The prayers of the Mass are addressed to God the Father through Christ in communion with the Holy Spirit.

3) We encounter the real presence of Christ in the liturgy in a fourfold manner:

1. In the presence of the minister; 2. In the proclamation of his Word; 3. In the Church that prays and sings; 4. In the Eucharistic species. (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #7)

4) There is a significant difference between liturgy and devotional prayer.

5) At liturgy it is the whole Church that celebrates.

“It is the whole *community*, the Body of Christ united with its Head that celebrates” (CCC #1140). All the baptized are celebrants with distinctive roles. Christ is our priest. The ordained minister is an icon of Christ the Priest (CCC #1142). The ordained priest acts *in personal Christi*.

6) The language of the liturgy is signs and symbols, words, songs and gestures.

“God speaks to man through the visible creation” (CCC #1147). (*see also CCC #1146*)

7) The basic elements used in the liturgy of the Mass include:

- > Altar and Ambo
- > Roman Missal, Lectionary and Gospel Book
- > chalice, ciborium, paten
- > bread and wine
- > vestments, special linens
- > candles
- > processional cross



The Liturgy of the Word

*“The Church is nourished spiritually at the twofold table of God’s Word and of the Eucharist. From the one it grows in wisdom and from the other in holiness. In the Word of God the divine covenant is announced; in the Eucharist the new and everlasting covenant is renewed.”
(Lectionary for Mass, #10)*

Gathering Rites

- > Processional & Gathering Hymn
- > Reverence the Altar
- > Sign of the Cross & Greeting
- > Penitential Act (or the Rite of Sprinkling)
- > Gloria
- > Collect

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

Ordinarily from the Old Testament. During Easter – Acts of the Apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

“The responsorial psalm is sung or recited by the psalmist or cantor at the ambo.” (Lectionary for Mass #22)

Second Reading

From one of the Letters

Alleluia / Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Sunday Scriptures are proclaimed on a three year cycle:

Year A: Matthew

Year B: Mark

Year C: Luke

The Gospel of John is used for special feasts and seasons.

The Weekday Cycle of Readings is on a two year cycle.

Homily

Profession of Faith *(the Nicene Creed or the Apostles’ Creed may be used)*

Universal Prayer