

I Celebrate the Lord's Day

Sunday is the Lord's Day and the day on which we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. We begin our celebration of the Lord's Day on Saturday evening. To celebrate the Lord's Day, we gather for Mass. We rest from work and spend time with our families and do things for others. People all over the world gather at God's eucharistic table as brothers and sisters. Mass is the high point of our faith life as Catholics. The Mass always follows a set order.

The Order of Mass

1 Introductory Rites

We gather as a community to celebrate God's presence in our lives. We praise God singing together the **Entrance Chant**.

We all pray the **Sign of the Cross**. Then the priest greets us with the words of the **Greeting**:

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

We acknowledge our sinfulness and ask God for mercy. The priest may invite us to pray this prayer:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what
I have failed to do,

(Then we strike our breast and say:)

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)

Then we pray for God's mercy and forgiveness.

Priest: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

People: Amen.

Gloria

Together we praise God in prayer by singing or saying the *Gloria*.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect Prayer

We ask God to hear our prayers. First, we all pray in silence. Then the priest prays aloud, and we respond, "Amen."



2 Liturgy of the Word

We listen to God's Word proclaimed from Sacred Scripture. We sit during the first two readings. We stand as the Gospel is proclaimed. We listen to the Homily and pray that God's Word will take root in our hearts.

First Reading

We listen to God's Word, usually from the Old Testament or Acts of the Apostles. We honor God's Word by our response.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

We respond to God's Word in the Psalm. The lector or cantor invites us to pray the words of the Psalm, usually in song.

Second Reading

We listen to God's Word from the books of the New Testament: one of the Letters or the Book of Revelation. We thank God for speaking his Word to us.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading

We stand and, except during Lent, sing "Alleluia!" to praise God for the Good News we will hear in the Gospel.

We prepare to listen to a reading from one of the Gospels.

Priest or deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest or deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to . . .

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then all trace a cross on their foreheads, lips, and hearts. We pray that God's Word will be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

The priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel. We offer praise for the Good News we hear in the Gospel.

Priest or deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

We sit and listen as the priest or deacon explains God's Word. He helps us understand how to live out what we have heard.

Profession of Faith

We stand for the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

We ask God to hear our prayers for the
Church, for the world, for people in need,
and for ourselves.



3 Liturgy of the Eucharist

The wheat bread and the grape wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We receive this most precious gift in Holy Communion.

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The priest then prepares the altar.

The priest lifts up the bread and prays a prayer, sometimes aloud. We respond, "Blessed be God for ever."

Then he raises the wine and says a prayer, sometimes aloud. We respond the same way.

We stand as the priest prays over the gifts. He asks God to accept our sacrifice.

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People: 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 holy Church.



Eucharistic Prayer

This prayer of thanksgiving is the center and high point of the entire celebration.

In the **Preface**, the priest invites us to stand and give thanks to God.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

The priest continues praying words of thanks and praise. Then we all pray in praise of God as we sing or say the **Holy, Holy, Holy**.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We kneel during the **Consecration**. The priest prays the words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.



In the **Mystery of Faith**, we remember all that Jesus has done to save us. The priest or deacon invites us to proclaim the mystery of our faith. We sing or say aloud this prayer or another:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

The priest continues to pray the words of the Eucharistic Prayer, asking God to receive our sacrifice of praise. He joins our prayer with the prayers of the whole Church. We pray quietly as we listen to the words of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Then the priest prays the **Concluding Doxology**. We respond "Amen." When we pray "Amen," we are saying yes in faith to all that we have prayed in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest:

Through him, and with him, and
in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

People: Amen.



4 Communion Rite

Now we prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We pray to be united with one another in Christ.

We stand and pray together
The Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



Sign of Peace

The priest prays that we will be united with one another in Christ's peace.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And with your spirit.

Then the priest or deacon invites us to offer a sign of peace to those around us. We exchange a greeting of peace such as "Peace be with you."

The priest breaks the consecrated host. We all sing or say aloud the
Lamb of God.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world,
grant us peace.

Communion

We kneel. The priest raises the Body of Christ and the chalice with the Blood of Christ and prays.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The priest receives Holy Communion. Then he offers the Body and Blood of Christ to the deacon and to the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

We bow our heads. Then we receive the Body of Christ—under the form of wheat bread—in our hands or on our tongue.

Priest: The Body of Christ.

People: Amen.

We bow our heads. Then we receive the Blood of Christ under the form of grape wine.

Priest: The Blood of Christ.

People: Amen.

After we receive Holy Communion, we return to our place to pray quietly in our own words. We thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

After a time of silent prayer, the priest invites us to stand and leads the **Prayer after Communion**. We ask God to help us live as Jesus has called us to live.



5 Concluding Rite

We continue standing as the priest invites us to pray.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

The priest offers the **Final Blessing**. We make the Sign of the Cross.

Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

In the **Dismissal**, we are sent to glorify the Lord by loving and serving him and one another, to continue the mission given to us at Mass.

Priest or deacon: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

People: Thanks be to God.

