

First Holy Communion Lesson 1

The Mass: Introductory Rite

Mass is a time to gather with our parish to worship God (praise and thank God) and remember Jesus's life, death and Resurrection.

During Mass the most amazing thing happens (something that doesn't happen anywhere else): the Priest changes bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

The Mass is celebrated in four (4) parts:

- The Introductory Rite
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- The Concluding Rite

Throughout Mass we show God our love by:

- Praying
- Singing
- Listening to God's Word

A Rite is something that is said or done the same way every time. There are two Rites during Mass:

- Introductory Rite
- Concluding Rite

Introductory Rite:

The Introductory Rite is the beginning of Mass

The Priest leads the assembly (or group of people gathered for Mass).

The Priest is called the "Celebrant"

The Mass begins with the procession

The Priest, Deacon, Alter servers, Eucharistic Minister and Lector walk down toward the altar. They bow toward the altar to show respect to God.

The procession is usually accompanied by music. Music helps us to raise our hearts to God in praise and thanksgiving.

We make the Sign of the Cross.

The Priest will greet us and reminds us that Jesus is present with us.

We are asked to think about our past thoughts and actions and if they offend God we ask for forgiveness.

Together with the Priest we praise God for his love and forgiveness.

We may pray:

Lord, Have Mercy
Christ, Have Mercy
Lord, Have Mercy

We will then say or sing The Gloria, (This is a prayer of praise to God)

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

After this prayer the priest will say an opening prayer and we will respond with "Amen"

Continue with lesson 2