

Explanation of the Mass notes from Fr. Eugene...

-Mass is the highest form of prayer we can do, and it is both a sacrifice and a meal. The Mass is about giving praise to God and the priest is not an entertainer. (Show Sacramentary and mention rubrics.)

-At the entrance of Mass (and people as they enter Church) the priest genuflects towards tabernacle coming into Church. The priest walks with other ministers down the aisle is reminder that it is pilgrimage and journey we make in life. The Crucifix that leads us in is a symbol that we follow Christ, and we must pick up our Cross and follow Christ. The Deacon does not genuflect because he is carrying the gospel book nor does anyone carrying something. They kiss the altar as a sign of respect and sacredness. At the sign of the Cross, Mass has started, and the focus goes to the altar. We bow to the altar and not the tabernacle until Mass has ended when Deacon or Priest says go in peace. Many Protestants think that we are doing Calisthenics because sit, then stand and then kneel. The changing of our posture is tied to levels of importance and reverence at different times. For example, the first and second reading and responsorial psalm do not have the same level of reverence attached because we sit. The gospel we stand because it is a higher level of importance reverence and obviously when we kneel this is the most important and reverent moments in the Mass.

I Introductory Rite-

- a. Greeting different choices a Bishop can say- 'Peace Be with You.'
- b. Penitential Act-a time to call to mind our sins and prepare us to receive Jesus because we are not worthy to receive the Most Holy Eucharist.
 1. Confiteor
 2. Have Mercy on us, O Lord. For we have sinned against you. Show us O Lord, your mercy. And grant us your salvation. May Almighty etc.
 3. You raised the dead to Life or Kyrie, eleison Lord have Mercy etc.
 4. Sprinkling Rite during Easter is common to use.
 5. Gloria is taken from Luke 2:14. This is done except Advent and Lent and signifies the Lord is coming much as the angels sang at Christ birth they sing now that Jesus coming here today at Mass.
 6. Collect or Opening prayer

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II Liturgy of the Word-God's words speak to us and every time we read the same passage, we hear something different. There are three cycles for weekend Masses Cycle A, B, and C. For weekdays there is Year 1 and Year 2.

- a. First Reading-Normally Old Testament but can be New Testament.
- b. Responsorial Psalm- 150 psalms in Book Psalms we hear different emotions that fits every situation.
- c. Second Reading New Testament and only read on Sunday and major fest days.
- d. Gospel (Deacon does or if not one available a priest) we stand much that we would stand when an important dignitary enters the room. We mark ourselves and ask that the word be emblazoned on our minds, on our lips and in our hearts. Deacon Kisses the Book of Gospels or if Bishop is present then he does.
- e. Homily-Problem in Jesus time, similar problem today, How Jesus answers problem and similar answer today.
- f. The Creed, either Nicene or Apostolic, can be used for children and during Lent. We proclaim the Summary of faith and what we believe together as a community and affirm that we are one in belief.
- e. Universal Prayer-Done by Deacon and if not one present than lay lector. Begin by praying for Pope and Church leaders, then world leaders and problems in world. Then country leaders and problems locally. We pray for sick and those who died. Then intention of Mass. One intention of Mass for the weekend or holy day must be for the people of the parish.

III. Liturgy of the Eucharist

- a. Presentation and Preparation of the gifts -The bread and wine our brought up. Many ways this symbolizes giving back a portion of what God has given us. The Deacon prepares the altar by putting a white cloth called a corporal. Much as Jesus was wrapped in a cloth when He was laid in the tomb so we put a white cloth down because Jesus will lay on the altar. We place Ciborium and Chalice. Chalice wine and a little water is mixed to remind us of Jesus divinity (wine) and our humanity (water) our mixed together.

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Washing of hands is a symbol of needing to be made clean and pure to do such wonderful act of consecration.

b. Eucharistic Prayer

1. Preface The Lord be with you etc. There are Prefaces for Ordinary Time on Sundays, weekdays, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Mary, and other Feasts.

(Sanctus) Holy Holy Holy-From Book Revelation this comes from and reminds us of angels being present. Also, it can be linked to Hosanna, Hosanna as people welcome Jesus riding in on a donkey Psalm Sunday. We prepare to welcome Jesus coming in the Eucharist in a few moments.

2. Priest extends hands and then in a sweeping action he calls on the Holy Spirit to come down and be present to the bread and wine. This is called Epiclesis.
3. He then says the Words of Institution that Jesus said at the Last Supper 'Take this all of you and eat it this is my body. . . . He doesn't say this represents my body he says this IS MY BODY. Just as Jesus was lifted up on the Cross, we lift Jesus up in the elevation of the host.
4. Memorial Acclamation (Mystery of Faith) -is our immediate response to God's coming to dwell among us, particularly in the transformation of the bread and wine into Body and Blood of Christ. There are three choices to say, and we usually try to match up the one we use with the theme of Mass or feast.
5. We then give thanks as the word Eucharist means thanksgiving. We pray for the Pope, our Bishop, Mary, Apostles, Saints, and the dead.
6. The Doxology and Great Amen close out the Eucharistic Prayer. We unite ourselves with the whole Trinity in giving thanks to God.

c. Communion Rite

1. Our Father we ask to be forgiven as we forgive others before partaking of the Eucharist, we must be right with God and others. When the priest has his hands in Orans posture he is praying for the people. The only time the people are praying with him when he does this is the Our Father.

2. The Sign of Peace again is a symbol that we are at peace with others and ready and worthy to receive our Lord.

Deacon or Priest gets hosts consecrated from previous Masses. We try to use the hosts consecrated for this Mass and not ones reserved from

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previous Masses. However, at some point you must use the surplus because it gets larger and larger. We need to be right with our brothers and sisters in Christ before receiving Jesus. As a sign that we are, we offer each other the sign of peace.

3. Lamb of God-At the beginning of Lamb of God the priest drops a small piece of host in the Chalice as a sign of unity. In the early Church in Rome, small piece of the host was taken from the main host to other Churches in Rome as a sign of unity between the Pope and the other Churches in the area. St. John the Baptist gives us these words. It is if we are now seeing Jesus His very self. "Behold the Lamb of God, etc.". We say, "Lord I am not worthy for you to enter my roof" much like the centurion says in Scripture (Matthew 8:8) that I am not worthy for Jesus to come into my home. Receive on the hand make a throne by putting one hand on top of the other. We make sure that we don't take the host by reaching for it, but that we receive it. Receiving on the tongue is the other option. The priest and or deacon purifying the vessels as a sign of reverence to particles and drops of Precious Blood and we say certain words.

IV Concluding Rites

1. Prayer after Communion.
2. Announcements are made before Mass but can be done after the Prayer after Communion.
3. Final Blessing-We have been changed and transformed by hearing God's Word and receiving Jesus Body and Blood and now we are being sent forth to change the world.
4. Recessional Song.