

# Review of the Mass

Together review the outline of the Mass below. Discuss each element, using the following questions as a guide.

- ◆ Do you feel you understand the nature and purpose of this aspect of the Mass? Do you have any problems with it?
- ◆ What might help make it more meaningful to you? What could you do to better enter into the spirit of this part of the liturgy?

## Structure of the Mass

### I. Introductory Rites

Purpose:

1. To gather to become a worshipping community
2. To ask God's forgiveness
3. To prepare both to listen to God's Word and to celebrate Eucharist

Parts:

1. Gathering song
2. Greeting
3. Rite of Holy Water Blessing or Penitential Rite
4. The *Kyrie* - Lord, Have Mercy
5. Opening prayer

### II. Liturgy of the Word

Purpose:

1. To hear and reflect on God's Word

Parts:

1. Proclaiming the Scriptures (for example, Old Testament, Epistle, Gospel)
2. Reflection and psalm response to First Reading
3. Alleluia (before Gospel)
4. Homily (explanation of and reflection on God's Word, after Gospel)
5. Profession of Faith
6. General Intercessions

### III. Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### *Preparation of the Gifts*

Purpose:

1. To prepare the bread and cup for the sacrifice
2. To provide a time of interior readiness for the Liturgy of the Eucharist

Parts:

1. Preparation of the Gifts (Bringing gifts to the altar, placing them on the table, blessing prayer)
2. Invitation to Prayer
3. Prayer over the Gifts

(over)

### III. Liturgy of the Eucharist (continued)

#### *Eucharistic Prayer*

##### Purpose:

1. To join with Christ in praise and thanksgiving for the works of God.
2. To join with Christ in offering his sacrifice of love.

##### Parts:

1. Introductory dialogue
2. Preface
3. The *Sanctus* - "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"
4. Eucharistic Prayer (including typically)
  - a. Praise to the Father
  - b. Invocation of the Holy Spirit (before or after the consecration or recalling of the Lord's Supper)
  - c. The Lord's Supper (consecration)
  - d. Memorial Prayer
  - e. Eucharistic acclamation
  - f. In communion with the saints; prayers for the Church and for the dead (before or after recalling the Lord's Supper)
  - g. Concluding Doxology
  - h. Great Amen

#### *Communion Rite*

##### Purpose:

1. To prepare to receive Christ's sacramental body and blood
2. To receive Christ's sacramental body and blood
3. To commune with Christ and with one another in Christ

##### Parts:

1. Lord's Prayer
2. Sign of Peace
3. Breaking of the Bread (including the *Agnus Dei* - "Lamb of God")
4. Communion
5. Prayer after Communion

### IV. Concluding Rite

##### Purpose:

1. To conclude the Mass
2. To prepare to go forth in service and to be Eucharist

##### Parts:

1. Blessing (possibly including Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People)
2. Dismissal
3. Often there is a concluding hymn