

THE MASS

1. What does the word Mass mean? It is an English word derived from the Latin text of the priest's dismissal of the congregation at the end of the Liturgy "Ite missa est". We Catholics worship God in a variety of ways, but the chief act of worship is when the community comes together for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is also called the Divine Liturgy or Sacrifice of the Mass. The Mass has always been and always will be the central form of Catholic worship.

2. The Mass is an ancient practice. As far back as the Acts of the Apostles and St Paul's Epistles, we see the Christian Communities gathering together to celebrate the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist.

3. Why must Roman Catholics go to Mass every Sunday? In the Third Commandment, God tells us to "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day" For the Jews, the Sabbath was Saturday; Christians, however, transferred the Sabbath to Sunday, the day of Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the dead.

4. How is the Mass the same Sacrifice as that of Christ? Because the offering and the priest are the same-Christ our Blessed Lord; and the ends for which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered are the same as those on the Cross. The same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross; is present and offered as an unbloody manner in the Mass. That is why being an Altar Server is so special, so holy so important we are serving Jesus Christ Himself at the Last Supper and as he offers himself up to His Father for us, for forgiveness of our sins, for the Salvation of our souls.

5. In Persona Christe!!! The Priest represents Christ. He is in the person of Christ at the Mass. Just as he is in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He is Holy, he is to be

treated with reverence, he is to be treated with respect.

THE OVERVIEW OF THE MASS

Introductory Rites

1. The Gathering(Hymn)
2. The Sign of the Cross
3. Greeting of the people
4. Penitential act
5. Absolution
6. The Gloria
7. The Collect Prayer

The Liturgy of The Word

1. Old Testament Reading
2. Responsorial Psalm
3. New Testament Reading
4. The Gospel Acclamation
5. The Gospel
6. The Homily
7. Profession of Faith
8. Prayers of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

1. Set the Table of the Lord
2. Presentation of the Gifts
3. Blessing of the gifts
4. Washing of Hands
5. The Eucharistic Prayer
- 6.The Mystery of Faith 8.

The Communion Rite

- the Our Father
- The Sign of Peace
- distribution of Communion

9. Concluding Rites

- Closing Prayer
- Final Blessing
- Dismissal
- Recessional Hymn

Obligations of an Altar Server