

Our Mission

“Drawing all people into Christ.”

Contact Us

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St. John-Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

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St. John-Sacred Heart Church - St. John Site

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St. Mary of the Seven Dolors Catholic Parish

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Frequently Asked Questions about the Mass

“Drawing all people into Christ.”



Welcome to our Tri-Parish.

The Catholic Mass is a Eucharistic celebration!

We come together to hear the Word of the Lord, to pray for the world's needs, to offer the sacrifice of the Cross in praise and thanks to God, to receive the Christ Jesus in Holy Communion, and then to be sent forth as disciples of the Gospel. Through this experience, the people of God are renewed and given new strength to live out the Christian faith daily.

This booklet is a guide that answers questions about the Mass. We hope it will bring you closer to the love of God whether you are a life-long Catholic, someone new to the faith or perhaps interested in our Catholic faith.

Our Celebration of Mass

Weekday Services

Wednesday	8:30 am	St. John-Sacred Heart, Sherwood
Thursday	8:00 am	St. Mary Help of Christians, Hilbert
Friday	8:30 am	St. Mary of the Seven Dolors, Stockbridge

Anointing Mass

		First Friday of the Month
	8:30 am	St. Mary of the Seven Dolors, Stockbridge

Weekend Services

Saturday	4:00 pm	St. Mary of the Seven Dolors, Stockbridge
Sunday	8:00 am	St John-Sacred Heart, Sherwood
	9:30 am	St. Mary Help of Christians, Hilbert
	11:00 am	St. John-Sacred Heart, St. John

Why do people genuflect and bow before entering a pew?



We recognize with our whole being that we are in the presence of God; indeed we are in the real presence of Christ in the tabernacle.

Is Mass supposed to be entertaining?

No. The Mass was never intended as entertainment. It is a ritual. Through the repetition of prayers, movements, and the changing of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are spiritually formed, inspired and consoled. The Mass allows each person to bring their own feelings into the liturgy. The whole point of Mass is to offer yourself, and all that you are feeling, to God in Jesus Christ.

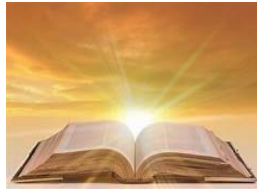
Why can't someone just pray at home?

It is good to pray at home, but it does not take the place of attending Mass where you pray in union with other believers as part of a community. The Mass inspires us by the readings and the homily, we reach out to others in Christ's peace, forgive during the Lord's Prayer, receive the Body and Blood of Christ, and become empowered to carry the presence of Christ into the world.



What do I need to know about the readings?

The 1st reading is always taken from the Old Testament (except during the Easter season) and relates to the Gospel reading. The 2nd reading is always taken from the letters in the New Testament or the Book of Revelation and is a continuation of the previous week's passage. The Gospel is the most important reading because it is Jesus speaking to us through his words and actions. We stand for the Gospel to acknowledge that we are hearing the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Why do we stand up after the homily for the Nicene Creed?

To proclaim publicly what we believe. The Creed is foremost

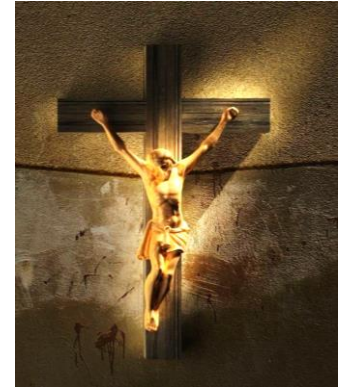
a prayer, which professes the love of God. It is also an opportunity to recommit ourselves to our faith.

Why do some people call the Mass "liturgy"?

A liturgy is any public ritual that the Church celebrates. The word "liturgy" means "the work of the people" in Greek. When you attend Mass you are a participant, not a spectator. You join with the priest and the people around you in prayer, reflection, thanksgiving, and communion.

Our Mass

The word "Mass" comes from the Latin word *missa*, "to send". The Mass prepares us spiritually to live as authentic followers of Jesus Christ in our everyday lives.



Why do we attend Mass every weekend?



The moral obligation to attend Mass has been Church law since the fourth century. But rather than think of it as something we "have to do", we should think of Mass as a valuable time spent with our loving God and with others.



When we go to Mass, we begin to see that we are not alone, and recognize that we are part of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

What do I need to know about the Mass?

THERE ARE 4 DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE MASS:

- **The Introductory Part** includes the procession, the greeting, the penitential rites, the Gloria (except during Advent or Lent), and the opening prayer.
- **The Liturgy of the Word** includes the readings, responsorial psalm, Gospel, homily, Creed and Prayer of the Faithful.
- **The Liturgy of the Eucharist** begins when the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. During the Eucharistic prayer, we witness the miracle of bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Christ. We proclaim the mystery of our faith and join ourselves in union with Christ's singular sacrifice to the Father. Then we respond with the great Amen, recite the Lord's Prayer, share a sign of Christ's peace with each other, ask the Lamb of God to have mercy on us, and humbly approach the altar to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. (If you are unable to receive the sacrament, you may make a spiritual communion, receiving Jesus into your heart.)
- After Communion, we meditate before the **Dismissal Rites** which include the closing prayer, a blessing and the commission to go out into the world to love and serve the Lord, and then the final hymn.

How would I explain what the Mass is to non-Catholic friends?

The Mass is our central form of worship. It unites us to Jesus Christ in his saving death and, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, draws us into deeper communion with him and one another.

Why do we have a Mass?

We celebrate the Mass because Jesus asked us to do this when he instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper. St. Paul tells us that Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took a cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me" (see 1 Cor. 11:23-27).

What does the word "Eucharist" mean?

The word "Eucharist" is from the Greek word "thanksgiving". When we celebrate the Eucharist, we give thanks to God for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



How does the bread and wine change into the Body and Blood of Christ?

During the Eucharistic prayer, the priest asks God to send the Holy Spirit and transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. This is called the transubstantiation. It is a conversion of the substance of the Eucharistic elements into the Body and Blood of Christ.