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26 What We Do at Mass

The Mass has many parts leading up to the coming of Jesus in the Eucharist. They are like steps on a ladder that climbs up to Jesus.

We begin the Mass by singing a hymn or saying a prayer while the priest goes to the altar. Then we make the Sign of the Cross.

Next the priest asks us to think of the ways we have hurt God and others. We say the *I Confess* prayer which asks forgiveness. This prayer also asks Mary, the saints, and those in church to pray for us. Then comes a song of praise, *Glory to God*.

After this we sit down to hear the *Word of God*. The lector and the priest read to us from the Bible. We learn about God's chosen people, and about the life of Jesus. The priest gives a sermon to help us understand the Bible and lead good lives.

We stand to say the *Creed*. The Creed tells what we believe as Catholics. It tells what our parents promised we would believe at our Baptism.

At the *Offertory* the bread and wine is brought to the altar. We offer ourselves as a gift to God. Also, we give our money to help our church.

Then we kneel down, and the priest says a long prayer to prepare us for the *Holy Eucharist*. He says the words of Jesus:

“This is My Body.”

“This is the cup of My Blood.”

And the bread and wine become Jesus, our Savior.

After this we stand and say the *Our Father*, then give the sign of peace to one another. Then the people go to receive our Lord in *Holy Communion*. They kneel down and spend some time talking to Jesus, Who now lives in their souls.

The priest ends Mass with a *Blessing*, and says, “The Mass is ended. Go in peace.” We leave the church, and we try to spend the rest of the day in a way that is pleasing to God.

Altar The table Mass is offered on.

Chalice The cup of precious material that holds the Blood of Jesus at Mass.

Ciborium The cup of precious material that holds the Hosts people receive at Communion.

Cruets The bottles that hold the water and wine.

Missal The book with the prayers for Mass.

Paten The plate of precious material that holds the Host, the Body of Jesus.

Parts Of The Mass	What The Priest Does	What We Do
Entrance:	goes to the altar gives greeting	sing a hymn or say opening prayer ask forgiveness for our sins
Readings:	reads from the Bible	listen to the Word of God
Offertory:	offers the bread and wine to God	offer ourselves to God
Consecration:	changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus	offer Jesus as sacrifice to the Father
Communion:	gives the people the Body and Blood of Jesus	receive the Body and Blood of Jesus
Blessing:	blesses and dismisses the people	receive God's blessing