

The Consecration

The Priest recalls the very words of Jesus at the Last Supper.

The Anamnesis

These words are used as a proclamation of the saving sacrifice that has just been celebrated in the consecration of the Bread and Wine. The response of the people to this acclamation of the Eucharistic mystery is a proclamation of their incorporation into this great Pascal Mystery.

The Offering

The gathered liturgical assembly “presents to the Father the offering of his Son which reconciles us with him” and reaffirms participation in it along with the whole Church. In this they offer their lives along with Christ, the spotless Victim, to God the Father.

The Intercessions

Prayers are offered for the Church in heaven and on earth: for the living and the dead and for all those who are in need. In particular, we pray for the Pope and the Bishop by name. These prayers of intercession are always made in communion with the Saints, and especially Mary, the Mother of God and the Apostles.

Final Doxology

The doxology asks that through, with, and in Christ, all glory and honor might be given to God in the Holy Spirit. Acting as a seal and affirmation of the whole Eucharistic Prayer by the gathered faithful, the “Great Amen” is the most solemn acclamation of the people at Mass.

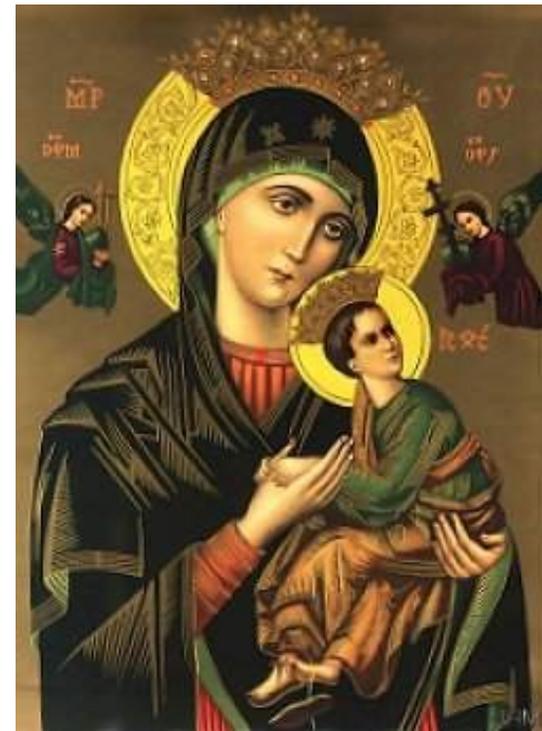
Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the Presentation of the Gifts such an important rite?
2. In the Introductory Dialogue, what does the Priest mean when he says, “Lift up your hearts”?
3. Discuss the epiclesis and the consecration and why they are both so important?

The Mass Deconstructed

A Liturgical Catechesis

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Roman Catholic Parish

Scottsdale

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is a Pascal Sacrifice and banquet, by which the Sacrifice of the Cross is continuously made present in the Church whenever the Priest, representing Christ the Lord, carries out what the Lord himself did and handed over to his disciples to be done in his memory.

The 2 Main Parts of the Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Preparation of the Gifts
- The Eucharistic Prayer

The Preparation of the Gifts

Presentation of the Gifts

Once the altar has been prepared with the corporal, purificator, Missal, and chalice, a few of the faithful bring forward the bread, wine and monetary offering and present them to the priest. This procession is accompanied by the Offertory chant or song.

Prayer Over the Gifts

The priest offers the Sacrifice of the altar, even as the gathered faithful have offered the sacrifices of their lives.

The Suscipiat and the Prayer over the Offerings

The Preparation of Gifts concludes with the priest asking the faithful to pray for him “that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.” His sacrifice is the one that only a Priest can offer. Our sacrifices are the ones we have presented with the gifts of bread and wine, and are now joined to the perfect sacrifice of Calvary.

The Eucharistic Prayer

- The “center and summit” of the entire Mass.
- 4 Eucharistic Prayers
- 6 Eucharistic Prayers for Special Occasions

The Introductory Dialogue

The Priest greets the people with the same greeting he used to greet at the beginning of Mass, “The Lord be with you.” “And with your spirit.” He urges them to lift up their hearts and to join them with Christ and with him to prepare to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to God the Father, “Lift up your hearts!” “We lift them up to the Lord.” The dialogue concludes with an invitation that would have been known as a part of the Jewish Liturgy in the time of Jesus, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” Which the people respond with an ancient Roman juridical formula, sealing and approving his intent, “It is right and just.”

The Preface

In the name of the People of God, the priest gives thanks for all that God has done for us. The text of the Preface frequently changes throughout the liturgical year in reflecting on the particular dimensions of the mystery of Christ and the saints whom we happen to be celebrating.

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.” This is taken from Chapter 6 of the book of the Prophet Isaiah. “Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.” To the voices of the angels and saints is added the song of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem from Matthew’s Gospel.

The Epiclesis

The Priest asks the Father to send his Spirit down upon the gifts of bread and wine, joining his hands in a gesture of descent and imposition. He also prays that the gifts of bread and wine be changed into Christ’s Body and Blood.