

**PEOPLE OF GOD WHO BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST SAVED THEM FROM SIN,
AND INVITES THEM TO ENJOY ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM**

I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?
Who is the Church?

II. THE CATHOLIC FAITH: CREED SACRAMENTS COMMANDMENTS

<i>Love Neighbor – Love Self</i>		<i>Love God</i>	
Signs of God's Life/Love			
<p>4. Respect All Authority</p> <p>5. Respect Life – SOUL</p> <p>6. Respect Procreation of Life – Assist God</p> <p>7. Respect Property – Security</p> <p>8. Communicate Truth – Trust Community</p> <p>9. & 10. Respect in Mind of Property & People – Covet- Desire</p>	<p><u>SACRAMENT</u></p> <p>Matrimony – to marry</p> <p>Holy Orders – authority to guide</p> <p>Sacrament of Sick – serious help</p> <p>Penance – healing/strength</p> <p>Holy Eucharist ↑ sustain</p> <p>Confirmation ↓ strengthen</p> <p>Baptism ↑↑↑ start</p> <p>Building Blocks</p>		<p>1. One God – 32 false gods</p> <p>2. Respect Name – same as</p> <p>3. Give Greater Attention</p> <p>One Day</p> <p>SABBATH</p> <p>Soul</p> <p>Body</p> <p>Family unity</p>
<p>GOD – FATHER (CREATOR) Mystery – Electricity</p> <p>TRINITY – Worship</p> <p>MARY – MOTHER OF CHRIST (GOD) Reverence – honor</p> <p>BELIEF IN CHURCH – ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, APOSTOLIC One-Govt./Faith/Morals, Holy: Founder & Means – Purpose – rooted in Catholic-universal, extent & doctrine</p> <p>COMMUNION OF SAINTS – Heaven/Earth Purgatory</p> <p>FORGIVENESS OF SINS</p> <p>Prayer – Authority of Christ</p>		<p>SON (REDEEMER) – CHURCH FOUNDER His life for us</p> <p>HOLY SPIRIT – GUIDES, INSPIRES CHURCH</p> <p>RESURRECTION OF BODY – reward, dignity</p> <p>ETERNAL LIFE – soul, spiritual</p> <p>Tradition – Bible</p> <p>FOUNDATION --- CREED</p>	
<p>III. <u>Faith In Action – Creed, Sacraments, Commandments Lived Out At Home, School, Work</u></p>			

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HERE ARE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ABOUT JESUS. JUST GO THROUGH THE LIST OF STATEMENTS AND CHECK THE BOXES OF THE STATEMENTS THAT COME CLOSEST TO THE WAY YOU THINK OF JESUS. THIS IS NOT A TRUE-FALSE QUIZ. CHECK JUST THE ONES YOU THINK ARE CLOSEST TO YOUR THINKING ABOUT JESUS.

1. Jesus lived most of his life in Nazareth..... ()
2. Jesus is the greatest person who ever lived, greater than any other human being.... ()
3. Jesus was a real human being ()
4. Jesus is alive, even today, because of his resurrection..... ()
5. Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died a painful death..... ()
6. Jesus could express perfectly what God wanted him to express..... ()
7. Jesus liked some people better than others..... ()
8. Jesus is really God himself ()
9. Jesus grew up as a human person developing his personality in the same way we do ()
10. Jesus worked miracles showing that he was God's son ()
11. Jesus used to go to parties, drink wine, and have a lot of fun ()
12. Since Jesus was God, he didn't really have to die; he could have avoided it by his
divine power ()
13. Jesus was as much as human being as you and I ()
14. Jesus is divine and therefore all powerful ()
15. Jesus had sex feelings just like we do ()
16. Jesus' mother Mary, was the "Mother of God" ()
17. Jesus probably had a favorite color, favorite place to go and favorite things to do ... ()
18. As a son of God, Jesus knew he was sent by God to bring about salvation of the
world ()
19. Jesus was afraid of what people would say or think about him when he was
growing up ()
20. Jesus can do anything he wants to ()

- 21. Jesus parents had to tell him everything during his childhood ()
- 22. Jesus often seemed to know what other people were thinking about him ()
- 23. Jesus got grounded for doing things wrong ()
- 24. Jesus, as God, has the same nature as God the Father ()
- 25. Sometimes Jesus got lonely and didn't know the answers to the problems he had to face ()
- 26. We really aren't worthy to even come near Jesus because he is so perfect ()
- 27. When Jesus didn't have enough sleep, or enough to eat, he got tired and even headaches like we get ()
- 28. People often approached Jesus hesitantly because he just seemed to radiate power and Majesty ()

Count all the even-numbered statements (2, 4, 6, etc.) = _____ Divine

Count all the odd-numbered statements (1, 3, 5, etc.) = _____ Human

DI 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 HU

There are no right or wrong answers, all are true. Jesus is both Human and Divine

RELIGION FOR LIVING

Jesus Christ --- age 1 to 30: (it takes about 4 years to run a 4-minute mile)

IN TRAINING: He got an education (His specialty – the Bible)
He kept His eyes open (not here just to kill or fill time)
He studied anything, everything, everywhere (studied nature)
He worked, and played, and prayed.
He was happy

Then Christ was ready to act ---

Recall the message of John, “Prepare, the Messiah is coming”

John baptized Christ --- not the sacrament of Baptism, but a “washing” external cleansing of body representing the cleansing of the soul. Christ did not need this, but he did so to show us that He was “one of us.”

Then Christ recruits an army --- Apostles --- visible Church for visible people.

Andrew and his brother Simon (to be called Cephas – Peter, the Rock); John and his friend, Philip and Philip’s friend, Bartholomew; the brother of John, James (the Greater) and Mathew (Levi), the tax man; James (the Less) and his brother, Jude and brother, Simon – all of Nazareth.

Thomas, the good and noble doubter and Judas, from Northern Judea, weather-tanned Peter and his tall brother Andrew. Bright-eyed, impetuous John.

Muscular, athletic Philip. James the Less (40 years later was thrown from the top of the Temple for the love of Christ.)

Jude (60 years later was murdered by Armenian arrows)

Simon to be nailed to a cross in Persia

Thomas, on a later date, ripped with a spear in India.

THEIR FAITH WOULD FALTER; THERE WOULD BE DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISCOURAGEMENT.
WITH THESE MEN CHRIST SHARED HIS PRIESTHOOD: TO PREACH – TO HEAL – TO SUFFER

So Christ begins ---

Temptations, that’s normal; prayer goes along; wedding feast and fun; the temple thieves and miracles ... A sample: cure of man born blind, a beggar on the temple steps .. put a little mud on eyes and was asked to go and wash in the pool of Siloe.

All objections answered:

1. Born blind – not the type of blindness which could be cured by sudden emotional shock.
2. Man did not know Christ – not a “set up,” no fakery involved.
3. Not “mass hypnotism” – witnesses included Christ’s bitter enemies who were in no mood to be hypnotized.

They saw no other explanation. In the words of Christ to Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not but believe.”

Faith is believing without fully seeing.

MARY FOR MODERNS

Through Adam's sin, creation was infected by death and darkness; Christ's redemption brought the life and light of a new creation. Because Christ chose Mary as His Mother, she is closely related to this redemption – the close relationship of Mother and Son.

Honor given to Mary then is not honor taken from God! Jesus loves Mary, not merely with the impartial love God has for every soul; not merely with the special love God has for holy souls; but the PERFECT human love which only the PERFECT MAN could have for the PERFECT MOTHER. Understood in this way, one can see that we don't divinize Mary – we honor Christ when we honor His mother. Mary is not a goddess; her glory is that she is human, yet God chose this merely human being as His Mother and give her the following PRIVILEGES;

Mary, Mother of God: Christ is God, Mary is the mother of Christ – so Mary is the Mother of God. Mary is not the mother of Christ's divinity, just as your mother is not the mother of your soul. Only God can create a soul. Only God can bring forth God. A mother is not just the mother of her child's physical body; she is considered the mother of the complete person whom she bears. The complete person whom Mary bore is Jesus Christ, God and Man.

Mary, Virgin: Almost 2000 years ago there were no 'bachelor girls or career girls.' In a world that was strictly a man's world, any girl wanting to mature, spiritually and intellectually, needed a man to provide and protect her. Nor did God want Mary, in mothering His Son, to suffer disgrace as an unwed mother. God saw to it that Mary has a husband.

Immaculate Conception: Too many people understand this Immaculate Conception to refer to the Virgin Birth of Christ; it refers not to Christ's conception in Our Lady's womb, but to Mary's conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

Assumption of Mary: This privilege refers to Mary, going to heaven, body and soul. This Privilege would follow from the simple fact that Christ would want his Mother with him in heaven, not her soul only, but herself, body and soul. She allowed her body to be used to mother Christ, so any son would want this, and this was the one Son who could have what He wanted. Also, it is a doctrine of the Church that all people would receive back the bodies from which their souls had been separated at death. The gap between was a result of sin, and Mary was sinless.

Worship is recognition of God; giving out will to God. Our will is the gift that we give to God when we go to Mass – our will united with Christ's will. Mary was quick to give her consent, her 'fiat' and is an example for us. "Love me, love my dog." – Love me, love my Mother.

THE SACRAMENTS

SEVEN SPIRITUAL MEANS TO REACH ONE SPIRITUAL END

Because it is a religion for human beings, Christianity is essentially sacramental. We are body and soul, matter and spirit. We grow in the Christian life by what we see with our eyes, and by what we hear with our ears.

We work with visible things; Christ founded a visible Church for visible people; Christ has given the Church signs and symbols which are material realities that point to a spiritual reality – heaven.

From the visible to the invisible; from the material to the spiritual; from the natural to the Supernatural.

Sacrament Outward sign (St. Aug. “visible sign of invisible grace”) power lines between Christ and us

Outward: can be perceived by one of the five senses

Instituted by Christ: the reward Christ merited on Calvary is passed on to us.

Gives grace: Spiritual talent, power, that allows you to share in the life of God Himself; God keeping your soul alive

Looks like magic: True, but – paper worth 3¢, government stamps it and it is worth just a little more.

- Blank check – signed by a millionaire
- Press a button (one little button) a bomb
- A little water, a few words, a contract with God, Baptism

The sacraments are a visible guarantee that Christ is working in the midst of us; at all important stages of life, Christ is there; it is Christ who baptizes, Christ who forgives, through His human instrument:

NATURAL

- 1) Born physically, Natural life
- 2) Grow, Mature
- 3) Food for the Body
- 4) Ordinary help for cuts; sores as Band-aids, Doctor

SPIRITUAL

- Baptism, born spiritually, second birthday,
Contract with God
- Confirmation; spiritual strength
- Christ Himself to be a strong Christian looking to spiritual adulthood – mature for others
- Food for the Soul, Holy Communion, Christ Himself
- Help for spiritual cuts, Sacrament of Penance;
Apologize to God – closes the gaps of friendship

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5) Extraordinary help in an Emergency – serious sickness | Sacrament of the sick (formerly called Extreme Unction) for added strength when a person is weak and there is danger that the devil may overcome. |
| 6) Natural leaders – President, Mayor, Father, as head of family | Sacrament of Holy Orders, giving a human being the order to help others, to be an instrument in the hands of God. |
| 7) Natural contract between two people, to work together for a common goal, natural happiness called marriage | Spiritual contract between two persons (where God agrees to help two people work and pray together and in this manner reach heaven, the purpose of their life on this earth) called Matrimony. |

Effects: Baptism received once, for only born once.
Confirmation and Holy orders, the same.

Matrimony is a spiritual contract that can be broken only by God: He does this with death.

Sacrament of the Sick – received more than once because one can be seriously sick more than once.

Sacrament of Penance – many times because the need to apologize more than once.

Eucharist – need spiritual food often.

THE SACRAMENTS are a visible guarantee, authenticated by the Word of Jesus and the usage of the Apostles, that Jesus Christ is working in the midst of us.

At all the important stages of our lives, in its heights and in its depths, at the marriage altar and the Cradle, at the sick bed, in all the crises and shocks that may befall us, Jesus stands by us under the visible signs of the life-giving sacraments, as our Friend and Consoler, as the Physician of our soul and body, as our personal Savior.

Yes, it truly is Christ Who baptizes, forgives, unites, through the instrument of His minister.

Sacrament Review

<u>SIGNS OF WHAT JESUS DOES</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>VISIBLE SIGNS WHAT WE SEE & HEAR</u>	<u>RESPONSE OF LOVE OUR ANSWER</u>
He gives us new life a children of God.	Unless a man is born through water & the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. John 3:5	Water poured I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit	<u>BAPTISM – BIRTH</u> We come into the community
He gives us His Holy Spirit so that we can act as responsible Christians	The Holy Spirit will be my witness and you, too, will be witnesses. John 5:26-27	Chrism (oil) Receive the seal of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Father.	<u>CONFIRMATION</u> Marks his growing up with us.
He gives us Peace and freedom by forgiving our sins	Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven. John 20:23	Confession with sorrow .. I absolve you in the name of the Father	<u>PENANCE (RITE OF RECONCILLIATION)</u> Rid self of problems and weaknesses.
He gives us his own person, His body and blood as food.	Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life. John 6:54	Bread and Wine This is my body; this is the cup of my blood	<u>EUCCHARIST ... FOOD</u> Share Christ together
He restores health and spiritual strength	If one of you is ill, he should send for the priest of the Church. James 5:14	Oil for the Sick By this anointing, may God forgive all your sins	<u>ANOINTING OF THE SICK</u> Visit the sick and comfort the dying.
He gives his priestly power for the service of his people	Do this as a memorial to me (Luke 22:19) As the Father sent me, so I am sending you. John 20:21	Hands laid on head Grant to these your servants the dignity of Priesthood.	<u>HOLY ORDERS</u> Witness total commitment to the Church
He blesses the union of husband & wife with loyalty and love.	What God has united, man must not divide. Matt 19:6	Hands joined ... I take you to be my wife. I take you to be my husband	<u>MARRIAGE</u> Witness of a lifetime union of love

THIS SHEET INCLUDES A REVIEW OF THE SACRAMENTS, SCRIPTURE QUOTES ACCOMPANYING EACH OF THE SACRAMENTS, THE OUTWARD OR VISIBLE SIGN WE OBSERVE IN EACH SACRAMENT, AND OUR RESPONSE TO THE SACRAMENTS WHICH IS VITALLY IMPORTANT.

HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

This part deals only with the Sacrament of Penance and will not discuss and of the other ways in or through which a person may be forgiven sins, e.g., prayer, good works, especially the Eucharist.

I. Church until the sixth century.

The main feature of this period is that, in principle, the person who has gravely sinned and therefore separated himself from the ecclesial community after his baptism can be re-admitted only once in his lifetime.

Stresses:

- Penance element – the necessity of performing good works to overcome the sin, the elimination of the wrong committed through prayer, fasting, works of mercy.
- Public: involvement of the entire community through the role of the bishop and the prayer of the whole community.

Abuses: “Death Bed” forgiveness

II. Early Middle ages – sixth through tenth centuries.

The Irish missionary monks establish and spread the possibility of re-admitting the same sinner many times in the communion of the Church. The private character of confession and penance for sins committed in secret is more distinctly asserted.

Stresses:

- Confession element – confessors and penitents seemed intent above all on the integrity of confession according to number and species.
- Private nature – the priest as minister of the sacrament
- Could be repeated.

Abuses: not taking conversion seriously

III. Late Middle Ages to present – eleventh through the twentieth centuries

- The stress is placed less and less on the penance that has to be fulfilled, but it shifts more and more clearly to the absolution of the priest. The responsibility which the community shares in the reconciliation of great sinners is reduced to a bare minimum. The Sacrament begins to be called “Confession.”
- Abuses: the sacrament is confined within the Church building

IV. Revitalized Rite, 1976

Stresses:

- Reconciliation element – realized through conversion of the penitent to God in the Church and the creative acceptance of the mercy of God realized in the ministry of the Church.
- Conversion in response to God’s forgiveness
- Public Dimension
- Healing

PREPARATION

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSION) SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SIN – What is it? Weakening or completely breaking a love relationship – Selfishness (Spouse, parents, friend, Christ)

SACRAMENT – Set up by Christ to renew and restore the relationship.

SACRAMENTS

5 Parts – examination of Conscience: Your duties
 Respect Authority
 Care brothers, sisters, etc.
 Ten Commandments
 7 capital sins (Pride, Envy, Anger, Lust, Gluttony, Sloth, Greed)

SORROW – Real, sincere, Love involved

CHANGE – Will try to do better Change habits

CONFESSION

REGULAR Reception (Read Word), confess time – Sins – what shouldn't I be doing and What I should. Conversation How does my bad example influence others?
My attitude in general? Do I feel close to God?
Do I think of Christ often?
Pray. Do I harm people? Good I do not do?

Priest gives advice – Penance – Asks that you express sorrow (act of contrition).
Priest gives absolution.

Closing: Priest ... Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
 Penitent ... His Mercy endures forever
Penance: Fulfill the penance the priest gives you.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Lasts about an hour. Consists of prayer, praise, Scriptures, Examination of conscience and Act of Contrition. Then each person goes to one of the priests present. Mention time since last confession ... any serious sin. Confess a less serious sin that you wish to focus on to remove and grow spiritually closer to Christ. No spiritual direction is given.

Priest: Absolution. Penitent then returns to pew and a common penance is received by all.

SIN AND MORALITY TODAY

- I. SIN – Fundamental Concept & Reality
- II. Present Climate – Confusion – re-examination - re-thinking – renewal
 - a. Vatican II Mandate
 - b. Theological Development
- III. Comparison by contrast of the EMPHASIS in the Traditional vs. Modern view and understanding of Sin & Morality.

Almighty Ruler	-Merciful Father	Individual	-Social
Laws	-Covenant Relationship – LOVE	Fear	-Love Response
Legal	-Personal	Absolute	-Relative
External	-Internal	Objective	-Subjective
Acts	-Attitudes (values)	Negative	-Positive

IV. DEFINITIONS OF SIN:

- a. Traditional: any thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the LAW of God.
- b. Modern: (Samples based on scripture)
 - Failure to live out the Christian ethic (love, service, hope ,joy, peace, reconciliation, creativity, etc.)
 - Not putting on the mind and heart of Christ Jesus
 - Real, unnecessary harm to persons and their environment
 - Whatever prevents men from making their lives and other richer; whatever tends to diminish or destroy it.
 - Failure to respond to God’s love, call, covenant
 - Responsibility in our lives to God, self, others, and the world.
 - Alienation from God and others.
 - The harm we do, or permit to occur; the good we do not do.
 - Failure to grow, to reach your potential, to seek perfection, and
 - Saying No to god and neighbor – being selfish

- V. NORMS: Traditional: LAWS (Commandments, Precepts, etc.)
 Modern: CHRIST, his life, his teaching: Sacred Scripture

- VI. SUMMARY: There is then a new emphasis today in our view of morality and sin. There is much more to being Christian than keeping the Commandments and precepts. Morality is not reduced to observance of a set of laws. Sin is not just what I have done, but what I have failed to do. It is not so much the transgression of an abstract law but the violation of a personal relationship. It is concerned not just with acts but attitudes, not just with laws but the underlying values they express. It is less secure but more demanding.

The Christian vocation according to Vatican II is : “To bear fruit in love for the life of the World.”
 Christ is the life, the norm, the example

“THE GLORY OF GOD IS MAN FULLY ALIVE”
 (St. Irenaeus – 3rd Century)

WHAT I THINK ABOUT SIN

	That's Me	That's Not Me
1. I fear sin mostly because it can send me to hell.	_____	_____
2. I think that many mortal sins are committed in today's evil society.	_____	_____
3. I think that the act that is committed is the main determining factor when judging sinfulness.	_____	_____
4. I think my sinful acts affect only me	_____	_____
5. I don't feel responsible for the evilness of society	_____	_____
6. I think it is possible to sin by doing nothing	_____	_____
7. I think my bad acts should lead me to examine my attitude and general direction of life	_____	_____
8. I think I've got a responsibility to the Church to care enough about its members to try to be my best self	_____	_____
9. I think when I'm not relating well with the community I could be sinning.	_____	_____
10. I think that when I refuse opportunities for personal growth I could be sinning.	_____	_____
11. I don't think I can base my decisions about sinfulness on guilt feelings.	_____	_____

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

What do each of these Commandments mean? Why are they necessary?

Why did God make this commandment?

I am the Lord your God ... Worship no God but me!

No false Gods! Who's the Boss? God creates, one God - God's in charge

Do not use my name in vain.

Name same as person. Love me, respect my name.

Keep holy the Sabbath

In a busy world one day is needed for: 1. More attention to God, 2. Rest for body, 3. Family Unity

Respect your father and mother

Respect ALL authority including parents. Parents take God's place as boss.

Do not kill.

Life is the soul ~ in God's hands. Respect ALL life.

Do not commit adultery.

God gives the power of Pro-creation, to create in behalf of God ~ so sex and sacred go together.

Do not steal.

Property is needed for security as we pass through this life. Stealing hurts security.

Do not lie.

We need to trust one another to form community, to work together. Lying breaks down trust.

Do not desire another man's wife (husband)

(Covet = desire) First comes temptation, next desire (action could follow)

Do not desire another man's property.

Must stop at temptation.

THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

What do you think each of these commandments of the Church mean?

What do they command us to do? Why?

1. Assist at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

2. Receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season.

3. Confess sins at least once a year.

4. Observe marriage laws of the Church.

5. Contribute to the support of the Church.

6. Fast and abstain on appointed days.

7. Join in the missionary spirit of the Church.

LET US GIVE THANKS

Let us give Thanks! A history of the Mass we all need to know --- for information, inspiration, appreciation and greater participation.

A RESUME:

FIRST PART – Tracing Mass from Jewish Passover to the Roman Mass of 600 A.D.

God's Chosen People always celebrated their "pass over" from the slavery of Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land – Israel. They celebrated at a meal. They remembered; they gave thanks. But Christ introduced the New Passover --- passing from the slavery of sin, rooted in Paradise, to the freedom of everlasting life.

Our Mass is a celebration of this victory, this Passover.

In the early Mass we did three things: 1) We gave thanks to the Father through Christ. 2) The community answers "AMEN"; we approve, we join with Christ in giving perfect thanks. 3) And we eat; we partake; we participate.

RESULT: WE ARE A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY. We give thanks in the perfect way, through the gift of Jesus Christ.

600 A.D. – No more persecution – more freedom. Eucharistic celebration more public, more openly joyful. NOW IN A PUBLIC CHURCH. Processions, Prayer of Mercy, Gloria, Scripture Readings, Offeratory Procession, Preface, Sanctus, Canon, Our Father, Post Communion Prayer, EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS AN ACTIVE SHARE.

PART II Tracing the Mass from 600 A.D. to 1980 A.D.

800 A.D. – New European lands subject to a foreign kind of worship in a strange language. Result: no more community spirit. Mass becomes a priest's specialty.

2nd Tragedy – Arian heresy: Christ only a man. To combat heresy Church emphasized divinity of Christ, distant from us (not our Brother). Result: loss of community spirit.

To stress that distance – altar moved against far wall; ceremonial railing between clergy and laity; priest whispers. People stop going to Communion; quit taking communion in their hands; He/She watch and adore at Mass.

ANOTHER HERESY AND OTHER ABUSES

1564 – COUNCIL OF TRENT "freezes" Mass in very minute details. Mass throughout world becomes standard. Focus on little details.

20th CENTURY

Reform back to the Mass as Community Worship begins. Pius X decrees frequent Communion, English missals, 2nd Vatican council, Advent 1964. About the Mass, the bishops decreed: "The Christian people should be able to understand the words and actions of the Mass, with ease, and take part fully and actively as a community." Mass once again becomes "OUR MASS". We give thanks with the priest – with Christ. We give our approval loudly "AMEN". We eat together.

The liturgy will never again be standardized. There will be a healthy flexibility for new ages to express thanks with Their Brother, in new ways.

WE WILL BE GOD'S EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY – GIVING THANKS!!

STRUCTURE OF THE MASS

I. LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRAYER (PLEASE)

3 SCRIPTURES (God's Word)

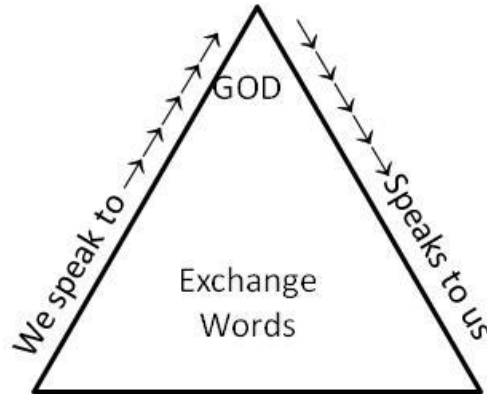
GLORIA (We love you, than

OMILY (or Sermon)

PENITENTIAL (We are sorry

CREED (We Believe)

GREETING (Family)



We pray – Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions)

II. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

CONSECRATION (Gift of Christ)

LORD'S PRAYER (Please)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (Thanks)

PEACE & MERCY PRAYER (Sorrow)

PRAYER (Please)



COMMUNION (Gift of Christ to us)

OFFERATORY GIFTS (Bread, wine, me, etc.)

BLESSING (Go and be a gift from God to others)

I. SACRIFICE OF THE MASS:

Not a new sacrifice but a dramatic representation: Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross made present in the signs of bread and wine. Death presented in the separate consecrations – Body, then Blood.

MEAL – Communion with Christ and His brothers and sisters. Sharing Christ around the table brings one into communion with humans and the DIVINE.

II. WHY DO WE GO TO MASS?

PRIMARY REASON: WE GO TO GIVE GOD A GIFT! The Gift is Jesus Christ!

SECONDARY REASON: At Communion time, God the Father, gives us a gift, the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

III. EXPLANATION OF THE MASS

Exchange of words followed by an exchange of gifts.

Throughout we have the four magic words:

I LOVE YOU! (Greeting – Gloria)

PLEASE (Opening Prayer)

THANKS (Gloria, Eucharistic Prayer)

I'M SORRY (Penitential Rite)

SEE DIAGRAM

You might also want to add their participation obligation.

1. Come in door, bless self with Holy Water (reminder of their Baptism and desire of clean soul in God's sight.)
2. Genuflection – lower self in the presence of God. Tell Him He's the Boss. He's in Control.
3. Kneel in prayer – talking with God in His house like you do when you first arrive at your friend's house.
4. Sign of Cross WITH priest as we begin Mass.
5. Say the Gloria, with the people, EVEN IF SOME AROUND ARE NOT PRAYING ALOUD. Youth can give a good example.
6. Listen to Bible readings – Homily (Sermon). Make triple sign of cross on forehead, lips, and hand with the priest as he begins reading the Gospel.
7. Say the Creed with the people EVEN IF SOME AROUND YOU DON'T SAY IT.
8. Offer to take up the bread and wine after the collection.
9. Participate in responses at the offering of the gifts.
10. Respond to the Memorial Acclamation
11. Reverent reception of Holy Communion. Don't look around at everyone else.
12. SING!! Even if song is new to you. You will learn.
13. Bless self when Father blesses the congregation.
14. Out in the parking lot, talk to some of your church family members.
15. Talk about the theme of the Mass and homily (sermon) on the way home and at the dinner table.



Come, Holy Spirit

Replace the tension within us
with a holy relaxation

Replace the turbulence within us
with a sacred calm

Replace the anxiety within us
with a quiet confidence

Replace the fear within us
with a strong faith

Replace the bitterness within us
with the sweetness of grace

Replace the darkness within us
with a gentle light

Replace the coldness within us
with a loving warmth

Replace the winter within us
with your spring

Straighten our crookedness;

Fill our emptiness;

Dull the edge of our pride;

Sharpen the edge of our humility

Light the fires of our love;

Quench the flames of our lust;

Let us see ourselves as You see us;

That we may see You as You have promised;

“Blessed are the pure of heart,

For they shall see God.”