



## Mass Guide

### ENTERING THE CHURCH

Upon entering a Catholic Church, you may sign yourself with Holy Water at the baptismal font or at a smaller font at the door. When you have found a place to sit, genuflect (bending of the right knee to the floor while making the Sign of the Cross) to the tabernacle. Genuflection may also be done when leaving your seat, or when passing by the tabernacle.

### PREPARING FOR MASS

1. **Read ahead:** Carefully read the Readings before Mass. Meditate on each passage, consider what God is trying to tell you. You can find the Readings for the Mass at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).
2. **Arrive early to prepare for Mass:** Give yourself time to collect yourself, remembering that you are in the presence of God. Let God occupy all of your thoughts.
3. **When enjoying fellowship before Mass, please use a quieter voice:** Please be respectful of others who may be praying around you.
4. **Pray while waiting for the Mass to begin:** Mass is something done for its own sake, it's not just an item on a checklist. You are here to be in the presence of God and receive Him graciously and joyfully into your life.

### OPENING SONG

**STAND**, open your music book (usually called a hymnal), and praise God with song.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

The priest will begin the Mass by saying "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". Make the sign along with the priest and congregation.

### GREETING

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

**All:** I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

As "through my fault" is said, the chest is struck three times to signify contrition.

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**All:** Amen.

**Kyrie: English:** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. **OR**

**Greek:** Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

**Gloria:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks



for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### COLLECT PRAYER

*Priest will then gather all of our prayers into one collect prayer.*

All: Amen.

### SIT

### FIRST READING

All: Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### SECOND READING

All: Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMINATION

### STAND

### GOSPEL

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

*As the congregation says these words, they make a small Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### SIT

### HOMILY

*After the homily, the priest will be seated for a moment's reflection, and then will invite them to pray.*

*Nicene Creed:* I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*At this time, and including the words "and became man" all bow to reverence the mystery of the Incarnation.*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*At this time, we pray for the church, pope, clergy, world, sick, and dying.*

**Reader:** We pray to the Lord

All: Lord, hear our prayer.



## SIT

### OFFERTORY

Gifts of bread, wine, water, and contributions are brought forward.

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation...it will become for us the bread of life.

**All:** Blessed be God for ever.

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation...it will become for us our spiritual drink.

**All:** Blessed be God for ever.

The priest then washes his hands praying to be cleansed from his sin.

### STAND

**Priest:** Pray, brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All:** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** It is right and just.

**All:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### KNEEL

**Priest:** The mystery of faith.

**All:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him...all glory and honor is yours for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

### STAND

**Priest:** At the Savior's command and informed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:** Our Father...

**Priest:** Deliver us, Lord, we pray from every evil...and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**All:** For the kingdom, the power and glory are yours now and for ever.

**Priest:** Lord, Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles...who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

At this time, it is customary for the congregation to offer a sign of peace to one another.

**English:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. OR

**Latin:** Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. (2x)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

### KNEEL

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God...called to the supper of the Lamb.



**All:** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## COMMUNION

It is customary for communicants to approach the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion by row. As you come close to the Eucharist, you may make a sign of reverence, e.g. a bow.

It is not required to receive both the Body and Blood of Christ, in receiving only one, you receive all of Jesus: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

**Priest or Extraordinary Ministry:** The Body of Christ.

**Communicant:** Amen.

**Priest or Extraordinary Ministry:** The Blood of Christ.

**Communicant:** Amen.

After receiving the Eucharist, you may return to your seat, and sit, stand, or kneel as your own reverence dictates.

After the Eucharist is distributed, the sacred vessels are purified. When the tabernacle is closed, you may be seated.

**Priest:** Let us pray...

### STAND

The priest then says the prayer after communion.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

As the priest says these words, he blesses the congregation who also make the Sign of the Cross.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**OR**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**OR**

Go in peace, glorifying God by your life.

**OR**

Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## CLOSING SONG

## EXITING THE CHURCH

As you leave your seat, you may genuflect toward the tabernacle, making the Sign of the Cross as you kneel.

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you leave, meditating and thanking God for the beautiful gift of the Mass

## TAKING THE MASS WITH YOU

1. **Write in your Mass Journal:** write down anything that inspired or challenged you during Mass or write down a prayer.
2. **Share with your family and friends the impact the Mass had on you:** If you have joy in your faith, share your faith with others! Joy is contagious, spread it around. If you struggle, ask the Holy Spirit for this gift.
3. **Be a Disciple:** Do you like Jesus, or do you want to be like Jesus? Be an intentional Catholic. Live out your faith with passion and purpose.

