

SMK: January 26, 2024

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Background Even lifelong Catholics tend to see the Mass as a "worship service," with Scripture, hymns and preaching - like a Protestant Christian Service, but with the "added bonus" of the Holy Eucharis. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is so much more!

Sources: Holy Eucharist - See Catechism Sections 1322-1419
We believe that He is truly Present: Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity.

Foundations: Our Lord Jesus Christ came to reconcile God and Man.
He gave His life for us on the Cross to redeem us.
He desires to be united with us in this life, and into eternity.

CCC 614 This **sacrifice of Christ is unique (Heb 10:10);**
it completes and surpasses all other sacrifices. Some key Old Testament sacrifices:
The offering of bread and wine of Melchizedek, Priest-King (Gen 14:18)
Sacrifice of Isaac (Gen 22:1-18)
The Passover / Sacrifice of the Lamb (Exodus 12), Malachi 1:11

THIS SACRIFICE WAS "ONCE FOR ALL", BUT NOT ONCE AND DONE!

CCC 618 The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the "one mediator between God and men". But because in his incarnate divine person he has in some way united himself to every man, "the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery" is offered to all men...

The bloody sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday is INEXTRICABLY UNITED to the Last Supper of Holy Thursday -- in which He instituted the Holy Eucharist - the first Mass. He instructed the apostles to do as He commanded -- in memory of Him --and to receive Him.

This was not merely a recollection of a past event, but He instituted this sacrament... in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages" - CCC 1323

The Eucharist re-presents (makes present) the Sacrifice of the Cross (CCC 1366)

The Eucharist and Christ's Sacrifice are one single sacrifice (CCC 1367)

The Mass is a memorial (Gk *anamnesis*) of Christ's Paschal Mystery (CCC 1362-66) - we enter in.

The Essential Format of the Mass has been in place since the Apostolic Age

The Lord's Supper sprung from His celebration of the ancient Passover Liturgy

Evidence in Scripture of the Apostolic Age (Acts 2:42, 1 Cor 11:23-25)

Evidence in the early Fathers of the Church (St Justin Martyr, 155 AD, See CCC 1345)

Evidence in alternative rites/liturgies

The Point: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is no mere worship service to be tweaked and adjusted to appeal to an "audience." In the Mass, we enter into His Sacrifice.
It ought to be **solemn** and **unique**. Ex. Vessels, vestments, incense, cleansing
Our participation deserves our best. We should elevate our language & understanding.
We have an obligation to worship the Lord ... and the privilege to be present!

What did the Saints believe about the Mass?

"When the Eucharist is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the divine victim immolated on the altar." ~ St. John Chrysostom

"The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass." ~ St. Augustine

"If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy." ~ Saint Jean Vianney

"The celebration of Holy Mass is as valuable as the death of Jesus on the cross." - St Thomas Aquinas

"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass."

St Padre Pio

THE ORDER OF THE MASS**Introductory Rites**

Processional and Greeting

Penitential Act

Lord Have Mercy (Kyrie in Greek)

Glory to God (Gloria)

Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

Homily

Profession of Faith or Creed

Universal Prayer (aka Prayer of the Faithful)

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts ... Prayer over the Offerings

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

Eucharistic Prayer (Options) - Epiclesis, Consecration, Words of Institution, etc

The Communion Rite

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

Lord, I am not worthy

Holy Communion

Concluding Rites

Prayer After Communion (Closing Prayer)

Blessing

Dismissal