

Sacraments at the vice of Communion

These sacraments help members serve the community.

Matrimony

In Matrimony, a baptized man and woman are united with each other as a sign of the unity between Jesus and his Church. Matrimony requires the consent of the couple as expressed in the marriage promises. The couple is the sign of this sacrament.

Holy Orders

In Holy Orders, men are ordained priests to serve as leaders of the community or as deacons to be reminders of our baptismal call to serve others. The signs of this sacrament are the laying on of hands and the prayer by the bishop asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Days of Obligation

The Holy Days of Obligation are the days other than Sundays on which we celebrate the great things God has done for us through Jesus and the saints. On Holy Days of Obligation, Catholics attend Mass.

Six Holy Days of Obligation are celebrated in the United States.

January 1—Mary, Mother of God

40 days after Easter—Ascension (in many U.S. dioceses the Seventh Sunday of Easter)

August 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November 1—All Saints

December 8—Immaculate Conception

December 25—Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Order of the Mass

The Sabbath, the day on which God rested after creating the world, represents the completion of creation. Saturday has been replaced by

Sunday as the Sabbath for Christians because it recalls the beginning of the new creation through the Resurrection of Christ. Since it is the day of the Resurrection, Sunday is called the Lord's Day. The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day is at the heart of the Church's life. That is why we are required to participate in the Mass on Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation. We also rest from work, take time to enjoy our families, enrich our cultural and social lives, and perform works of mercy. On Sunday, people from all over the world gather at God's eucharistic table.

The Mass is the high point of Christian life, and it follows a set order.



Introductory Rites

We prepare to celebrate the Eucharist.

Entrance Chant

We gather as a community, praising God in song.

Greeting

We pray the Sign of the Cross, recognizing the presence of Christ in the community.

Penitential Act

We remember our sins and ask God for mercy.

Gloria

We praise God in song.

Collect

This prayer focuses the attention of all gathered.



The Liturgy of the Word

We hear the story of God's plan for salvation.

First Reading

We listen to God's Word, usually from the Old Testament.

Responsorial Psalm

We respond to God's Word in song.

Second Reading

We listen to God's Word from the New Testament.

Gospel Acclamation

We sing "Alleluia!" to praise God for the Good News. During Lent, we sing other acclamations.

Gospel Reading

We stand to acclaim Christ present in the Gospel.

Homily

The priest or deacon explains God's Word.

Profession of Faith

We proclaim our faith through the Nicene Creed.

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for our needs and the needs of others.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

We celebrate the meal Jesus instituted at the Last Supper and remember the sacrifice he made for us.

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

We bring gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

Prayer over the Offerings

The priest prays that God will accept our sacrifice.

Eucharistic Prayer

This prayer of thanksgiving is the center and high point of the entire celebration.

- *Preface*—We give thanks and praise to God.
- *Holy, Holy, Holy*—We sing an acclamation of praise.
- *Consecration*—The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- *The Mystery of Faith*—We proclaim Jesus' death and Resurrection.
- *Amen*—We affirm the words and actions of the Eucharistic prayer.

Communion Rite

We prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.

- *Lord's Prayer*—We pray the Lord's Prayer.
- *Sign of Peace*—We offer one another Christ's peace.
- *Lamb of God*—We pray for forgiveness, mercy, and peace.
- *Communion*—We receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- *Prayer after Communion*—We pray that the Eucharist will strengthen us to live as Jesus did.

Concluding Rites

We go forth to glorify the Lord in our homes, our schools, and the world.

Final Blessing

We receive God's blessing.

Dismissal

We go forth to glorify the Lord in our homes, our schools, and the world.