The Order of the Mass

The words of the Priest and the people, with when to sit, stand and kneel

PRIEST **PEOPLE (IN BOLD)** *Instructions in italics*

PART 1

The Introductory Rites

The Priest goes up to the altar and kisses it.

Everyone stands as the Priest and the servers come in, usually during the entrance hymn.

The Priest may announce the intention for which the Mass is offered, for example: "This Mass is offered for the repose of the soul of N." If it is a weekday Mass with no choir or organ, he may then say the Entrance Antiphon himself.

The Priest then makes the Sign of the Cross with everyone. Before anything else, we ask God's forgiveness.

PRIEST In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

PRIEST The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE **And with your spirit.**

The Priest invites everyone to call to mind their sins:

PRIEST Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

On Sundays and feast days:

PRIEST AND PEOPLE **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, (striking the breast) 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.**

On weekdays:

PRIEST You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

PEOPLE **Lord, have mercy.**

PRIEST You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

PEOPLE **Christ, have mercy.**

PRIEST You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

PEOPLE **Lord, have mercy.**

PRIEST May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

At a weekday Mass the Priest now says the Opening Prayer, which ends: "... through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever." The people answer: "Amen." On Sundays and feast days we say the Kyrie and sing the Gloria:

PRIEST Lord, have mercy.

PEOPLE **Lord, have mercy.**

PRIEST Christ, have mercy.

PEOPLE **Christ, have mercy.**

PRIEST

Lord, have mercy.

PEOPLE

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST AND PEOPLE

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.

The Priest says the Collect, the opening prayer of the day.

PRIEST

Let us pray.

At the end, the people answer:

PEOPLE

Amen.

Everyone sits for the First Reading.

PART 2

The Liturgy of the Word

God speaks to us in the readings, the Gospel and the homily. Then we profess our faith together.

The readings of the day:

The First Reading is usually from the Old Testament, such as Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah or Jeremiah, chosen to connect with the Gospel. In Easter Time it is from the Acts of the Apostles, the story of the early Church.

The Responsorial Psalm follows, from the Book of Psalms, and answers the First Reading.

The Second Reading, on Sundays and solemnities, is from the letters of the New Testament: Saint Paul's, or those of Peter, James and John. It follows a plan of its own rather than the Gospel's theme.

The Gospel is from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, and is the high point of the Liturgy of the Word. On Sundays, Matthew, Mark and Luke take turns over a three-year cycle (Years A, B and C); John is read especially in Lent and Easter Time.

On weekdays there is only one reading before the Gospel, from the Old Testament or the Acts of the Apostles, then the Psalm and the Gospel.

Everyone stays seated for the readings and the Psalm, and stands for the Gospel. A reader proclaims the readings; only a priest or deacon reads the Gospel. Each reading ends:

PRIEST

The word of the Lord.

PEOPLE

Thanks be to God.

Everyone stands for the Alleluia, the acclamation before the Gospel (in Lent, another acclamation is sung instead).

Before the Gospel, the Priest prays quietly:

PRIEST

Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel.

Then he says:

PRIEST

The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE

And with your spirit.

PRIEST

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint N.

With the Priest, everyone traces a small cross with the thumb on the forehead, the lips and the heart.

PEOPLE

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

PRIEST The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Priest kisses the book and says quietly:

PRIEST May the words of the Gospel wipe away our sins.

Everyone sits for the homily.

After the homily, on Sundays and solemnities, everyone stands for the Creed: either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed is said together.

The Apostles' Creed:

PRIEST AND PEOPLE **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

Or the Nicene Creed (at the words "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man," everyone bows):

PRIEST AND PEOPLE **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, 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.**

Everyone remains standing for the Prayers of the Faithful. After each petition:

PRIEST We pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE **Lord, hear our prayer.**

After the last petition, everyone sits while the gifts are brought to the altar.

PART 3

The Preparation of the Gifts

Bread and wine are brought to the altar, and the Priest offers them to God for all of us.

The Priest lifts the bread a little and says:

PRIEST Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God for ever.**

He pours wine and a drop of water into the chalice, saying quietly:

PRIEST By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

He lifts the chalice:

PRIEST Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God for ever.**

Bowing, he says quietly:

PRIEST With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

He washes his hands, saying quietly:

PRIEST Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Then he turns to the people:

PRIEST Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

Everyone stands.

PEOPLE **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.**

The Priest says the Prayer over the Offerings. The people answer:

PEOPLE **Amen.**

PART 4

The Eucharistic Prayer

The heart of the Mass. The Priest gives thanks to God for all of us, and by the power of the Holy Spirit the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. Everyone is standing.

PRIEST The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE **And with your spirit.**

PRIEST Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PRIEST Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right and just.**

The Priest says the Preface of the day, and everyone joins in the Holy, Holy:

PRIEST AND PEOPLE **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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues. Everyone kneels at this point.

PRIEST You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The words of consecration:

PRIEST At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU. In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying: TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

PRIEST The mystery of faith.

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

PRIEST Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

PRIEST Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy.

PRIEST Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

PRIEST Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

Everyone stands.

PART 5

The Communion Rite

We pray the Our Father, offer each other the sign of peace, and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

PRIEST At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

PRIEST AND PEOPLE **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

PRIEST Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

PRIEST Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will, who live and reign for ever and ever.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

PRIEST The peace of the Lord be with you always.

PEOPLE **And with your spirit.**

PRIEST Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Priest continues quietly:

PRIEST May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

Everyone offers a sign of peace to those nearby.

PRIEST AND PEOPLE **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

After the Lamb of God, everyone kneels. The Priest raises the Host for all to see.

PRIEST Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

Receiving the Body of Christ, the Priest says quietly:

PRIEST May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Receiving from the chalice:

PRIEST May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Row by row, everyone comes forward for Communion, then returns to their pew to kneel or sit in prayer. To each person the Priest or minister says, "The Body of Christ," and they answer, "Amen." If you are not Catholic, or not ready to receive, you are still welcome: come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing, or stay in your pew and pray. Not every parish offers this blessing: it is mainly a North American custom and is not part of the Communion rite itself. If you are unsure, stay in your pew and pray.

The Priest then places the Hosts in the tabernacle and kneels. The people may kneel or sit. The Priest cleans the chalice and the altar; when he has finished, everyone stands for the Prayer after Communion.

PRIEST Let us pray…

PEOPLE **Amen.**

PART 6

The Concluding Rites

The Priest blesses the people and sends them out to live the Gospel.

Before the blessing, the parish announcements are read. Everyone may sit.

Everyone stands for the blessing.

PRIEST The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE **And with your spirit.**

PRIEST May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Everyone makes the Sign of the Cross:

PEOPLE **Amen.**

PRIEST The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Depending on the parish, the Hail Mary and the Prayer to Saint Michael may be said.

Everyone remains standing until the Priest has left, usually during the closing hymn.