

## THE MASS: WHY DO WE...?

*Why is it important for us to come together as a community at Mass?*

**First**, community is a fundamental premise in Christianity. Jesus called together a community of disciples (Matt. 4:18); Jesus called people together throughout his public ministry; and Jesus said that where two or more are gathered in his name he is present (Matt. 18:20). The institution of the Eucharist, itself, began with Jesus sharing a Passover Meal in community with His disciples.

**Second**, as baptized members of the body of Christ, we are called to share in the presence of Jesus at the Mass. We are like sheep scattered until Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls us from our day-to-day workloads and concerns into communion with all the Church, including the angels and saints. We are called to prayer and praise and nourishment for our souls by His very body and blood.

*What are the parts of the Mass?*

There are 4 parts of the Mass.

**First**, THE INTRODUCTORY RITES: Entrance, Greeting, Act of Penitence, *Kyrie*, *Gloria*, and the Collect.

**Second**, THE LITURGY of the WORD: First Reading (generally from the Old Testament), Psalm, Second Reading (from the New Testament), Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation, Gospel, Homily, Profession of Faith, and the Universal Prayer.

**Third**, THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: Presentation and Preparation of the Offerings, Prayer Over the Offerings, Holy Holy, Eucharistic Prayer, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, The Lord's Prayer, Sign of Peace, The Fraction (breaking of the bread), The Lamb of God, Communion, Prayer after Communion.

**Finally**, THE CONCLUDING RITE: Greeting, Announcements, Blessing, Dismissal.

*Throughout the next few weeks, we will learn more about each, individual, part of the Mass.*