

## Catechist Corner

*Saint Joseph and Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Parish Communities  
Cecilia, Louisiana*

### *Jesus, the Mass, and You: A Walk Through the Parts of Holy Mass*

*February 23, 2025*

## **Structure of the Liturgy of the Word**

1.) The basic structure of the Liturgy of the Word (LOTW) is structured a certain way for a reason.

- *First Reading, Old Testament*
- *Psalm*
- *Second Reading and Response*
- *Halleluia - Gospel*
- ***The Homily***
- *Profession of Faith – the Creed*
- *Prayers of the Faithful/Concluding Prayer*

## **The Homily**

*Homily comes from the Latin word "homilia," which means address, conversation, or discourse. In ancient Greece, the word referred to addressing a crowd.*

### ***Is it a homily or a sermon?***

1.) Normally, we refer to the priest's comments after the readings as a sermon, so what's the difference? A sermon typically addresses a moral or doctrinal topic, whereas a homily is a commentary on Scripture. In Mass, the two words are synonymous. In other words, the sermon/homily is practically the same because the priest's address serves both purposes.

2.) Our Lord explained his parables to the Apostles so they could grasp their deeper meaning. Take, for example, Jesus' parables about the Sower and the Seeds or the Weeds and the Wheat. In the homily, the priest will bring out points of interest for the faithful to consider and apply to their lives. Homilies can include words of wisdom from saints, the readings at Mass, quotes from the Catechism, and personal experiences.

### ***How can I get more out of the readings and the homily?***

3.) Homilies serve as a bridge between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. On the road to Emaus, Our Lord opened the Scriptures to the Apostles before breaking bread with them.<sup>1</sup> Holy Mass is one single act of worship with each part linked together.<sup>2</sup> The readings introduce us to Our Lord and the mystery of redemption. (Liturgy of the Word). Homilies seek to enflame the heart and soul to seek union with Our Lord, holiness, and the Kingdom of Heaven. We are united to Christ and get a taste of Heaven in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

4.) If I could put it his way, the homily is halftime at a football game. Homilies are the coach's speech to get the players fired up to go back on the field and get the big win. In the first half, what have I learned about the Lord God? What has he revealed about my life that needs his grace and strength? Just like a football team, what adjustments do I need to make? How can I grow closer to the Lord and grow as a disciple?

5.) We are called to be the Lord's witnesses and disciples. Through Baptism, we are called to the Lord's table, the sacrificial meal of his body and blood. The homily invites us to reflect on what Our Lord is revealing to us and how to respond to it.

6.) The Liturgy of the Word continues with a profession of faith and the prayers of the faithful. Those reflections will conclude the Liturgy of the Word and prepare for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

***"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."***<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ***Lk 24:13-35, RSV-CE***

<sup>2</sup> ***CCC #1346, Catechism of the Catholic Church***

<sup>3</sup> ***Samuel 3:10***