

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

March 09, 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*

By his revelation, "the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, to invite and receive them into his own company." ¹

1.) Echoing the Sacred Scriptures, the Catechism reminds us that God has revealed himself to us. He has revealed himself in Jesus Christ, Savior and Redeemer, who has come to invite us into fellowship with the Father through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

2.) **The gift of faith, or believing, is first an invitation from God** ² to be in communion with Him. The Introductory Rite of Mass, the gathering of the faithful, is our response to God, who speaks first. God the Father sent his Son to reveal the Father's redemptive plan and love for humanity. In the Gospel and Readings, the Son of God made Man speaks to the People of God, announcing the good news of redemption and calling us to holiness. God speaks and calls his people to believe in him. This call from God invites us to respond.

3.) ***Faith is a human act that responds to God.*** ³ Faith is a supernatural gift infused into the soul at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation. To assist in moving our minds and will, we rely on the Holy Spirit. By God's grace and through the Holy Spirit, He invites

¹ CCC #142, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*; DV #5, *Dei Verbum*, Second Vatican Council

² CCC #153, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

³ CCC #154-155, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*; St Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologia*

humanity to trust in Him.. God is inviting us to be taught and instructed by him. God wants to guide us, to make us holy so that we may come to know, love, and serve him. **I/We believe** is saying yes to God. "Yes, Lord, teach me Your ways and reveal Yourself to me!"

4.) Together, we proclaim, "We believe"..... After hearing the Word of God, which is the Lord speaking to us, we answer, "Yes, Lord we believe." The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed dates back to the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople in 325 and 381 A.D. The Creed or Credo is a dogmatic statement on the essentials of the Christian Faith.

5.) We affirm our faith in the revelation of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit regarding themselves and their plan for redemption. Faith in God is not based on what we know, understand, or agree on. Believing is letting God instruct and increase our knowledge and understanding with his revelation. Learning and study are not opposed to faith, they help prepare for it.

6.) Our act of believing opens the heart, mind, and soul to receive him sacramentally in the Eucharist. Faith and belief open the doors to the heart for him who knocks and wishes to enter. To stand and proclaim the Creed of Faith is to welcome the invitation to enter into the life of God, a life made whole by Christ in the Eucharist.

7.) Instead of memorizing the Profession of Faith, allow yourself to be guided by the Holy Spirit and aided by grace to open up to what is being revealed. Two books I would recommend to go deeper into the Creed are the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Compendium to the Catechism. The Compendium is a bit shorter and is in question-answer format. Using them together would also be of great value.

The upcoming article will conclude the Liturgy of the Word with the Prayers of the Faithful or Intercessory Prayers.

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