

Welcome to Saint Columba Catholic Church!



We are delighted you joined us for the worship of God today. This card will help you to follow the Mass from beginning to end. The readings from the Bible are in the Breaking Bread book as are the hymns. The song leader will announce the page number of today's readings and the hymn numbers, which are posted on the boards to the left and right of the altar.

The most important act of worship for Catholics is the celebration of the Mass. In the early church, the Mass was called the Breaking of the Bread and was celebrated in private homes. We know this from the Acts of the Apostles and the New Testament Letters.

The Introductory Rites

THE ENTRANCE SONG *Coming together as God's people, we open the celebration by raising our voices in praise of God who is present among us.*

THE GREETING *We remain standing and make the Sign of the Cross*

Priest/Deacon: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **And with your spirit.**

THE PENITENTIAL ACT *Before we hear God's word, we acknowledge our sins, humbly ask for mercy, and accept His pardon. The celebration of God's mercy takes one of the following forms:*

Form A:

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, 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

Form C:

Priest/Deacon: Lord, have mercy

People: Lord, have mercy

Priest/Deacon: Christ, have mercy

People: Christ, have mercy

Priest/Deacon: Lord, have mercy

People: Lord, have mercy

THE GLORIA *We sing this hymn of praise on Sundays and during feast days.*

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 thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

This hymn comes to us from the year 368 A.D. and is sung every Sunday except during Advent and Lent.

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

COLLECT *After a period of silence, the Priest/Deacon says the Collect Prayer*
People: Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

The first part of the Mass is the Liturgy of the Word. The proclamation of God's Word is always centered on Christ, present through His Word. Old Testament readings prepare for Him; New Testament books speak of Him directly. All of scripture calls us to believe and follow. After each reading we reflect on God's Word and respond to it. Readings are from the Old Testament and the New Testament and at every Mass we read from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. The responsorial Psalm is usually sung. When the Gospel is proclaimed the people stand.

THE HOMILY *The Holy Spirit, speaking through the lips of the homilist, explains and applies today's biblical reading to the needs of this particular congregation. He calls us to respond to Christ through the life we lead.*

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH *As a community we express our acceptance of God's message in the scripture and homily. We summarize our faith by proclaiming a creed handed down from the early church at the Councils of Nicaea (325AD) and Constantinople (381AD).*

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

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, (At the words that follow, all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

What the Scriptures say in length, the Nicene Creed says briefly.

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.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL *As a priestly people we unite with one another and Christ to pray for today's needs in the Church and the world.*

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR *The bread and wine for the Eucharist, with our gifts for the Church and the poor, are gathered and brought to the altar. We prepare our hearts by song as the altar is being set.*

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Made ready by reflection on God's Word, we enter now into the Eucharistic sacrifice itself, the Supper of the Lord. We celebrate the memorial, which the Lord instituted at His Last Supper. We are God's new people, the redeemed brothers and sisters of Christ, gathered around His table. We are here to praise God and to receive the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood, so that our faith and life may be transformed.

THE DIALOGUE BEFORE THE PREFACE

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**

This dialogue comes from the oldest written account of the Mass, dating back to 255 A.D.

PREFACE ACCLAMATION *The prefaces vary with the seasons of the Church. At the end of the preface, the Priest/Deacon and people sing:*

This echoes the sentiments of the Prophet Isaiah 6:3.

**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.**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *This may vary and is usually sung.*

GREAT AMEN *This is sung, and is our assent to all we have said and done in the Mass thus far.*

THE COMMUNION RITE *We are approaching a very sacred part of the Mass—the reception of Communion. Catholics believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, following His words at the Last Supper and repeated at every Mass, is truly present as God and Man in the consecrated Bread and Wine, which we receive at Communion. Because it is so sacred to us, we believe it would not be proper to offer Communion to those who, in their sincere belief, do not hold that Christ is truly and wholly present in Communion.*

It is your goodness and faith that brought you here today and we respect your faith as you respect ours. We pray that the Holy Spirit will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions, which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer "that we may all be one" (John 17:21).

To prepare for the Lord's Supper and to welcome the Lord, we pray for forgiveness and exchange a sign of peace. Before eating Christ's Body and drinking His Blood, we must be one with Him and with all our brothers and sisters in the church.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SIGN OF PEACE

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD *During the breaking of the bread, the following litany is sung, a reminder that Jesus, the Lamb of God was sacrificed for us on the cross and is with us now at Mass:*

**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.**

COMMUNION *We pray in silence and then voice words of humility and hope as our final preparation before meeting Christ in the Eucharist.*

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

As the people proceed and receive the Body and Blood of Christ they sing a hymn. There is a period of silence after communion, closed by a prayer to which all respond:
Amen

The Concluding Rite

Priest: The Lord be with you

People: **And with your spirit**

Priest: Blessing of the people

People: **Amen**

Priest/Deacon: Invites everyone to go and live the Gospel

People: **Thanks be to God**

We have heard God's Word and received the Body and Blood of Christ. Now we are dismissed, to do good works and give glory to God in our daily lives as missionary disciples of His Son Jesus Christ. Our closing hymn sends us forth.

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