


St. Luke the Evangelist Parish  
13 North St., Geneseo, NY




**Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I**  
Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunnichiff  
September 23, 2020

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**Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I**

Opening Prayer



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**Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I**

**Webinar Tips**

- All participants are muted to reduce background noise
- If slides are not fully visible, check at the top center of your screen for “fit to window” under arrow.
- If you would like to ask a question, at the bottom of your screen you should see a box with the letters “Q & A”. Click it and you can type your question. It will show on my screen.
- In addition to the slides, you should see a video of me. It should appear in the upper right of your screen. It should not block any significant content on the slides. If it does you can drag it around.

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**Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I**

**Our Goal for This Series**

- My previous series on the Sacraments – [www.renewaloffaith.org/sacramentsvideo](http://www.renewaloffaith.org/sacramentsvideo)
- The Coronavirus left us without public Masses for three months. We longed for the Mass. Do we know why?

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### The Sunday Obligation

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2180*

“The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: **“On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.”** “The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day.”

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2181*

“The Sunday Eucharist is the **foundation** and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, **unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants)** or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.”

*Cf. Code of Canon Law, 1245-1248*

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### More than an Obligation Sunday as the Lord’s Day

Third Commandment – Keep the Sabbath Holy

- <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/the-lord-s-day.html>
- *Dies Domini* by Pope John Paul II - [http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost\\_letters/1998/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_apl\\_05071998\\_dies-domini.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/1998/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_05071998_dies-domini.html)
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2168-2195*

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### The Obligation is Important

The obligation is important. For example, at times we might visit family in nursing homes more as an obligation than desire.

Rolheiser – Why does an alcoholic keep going to Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) meetings when he/she hasn’t been drinking? He/she goes to keep from drinking (*Our One Great Act of Fidelity, 77*).

→ We shouldn’t wait until we fall to come to Mass. We need grace to help keep us from falling.

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I


### From Obligation to Why We **Need** the Mass As Part of the Lord’s Day

When your cell phone, laptop, or tablet, goes weak/dead, what do you do? You plug it in to charge it. In fact, we normally don’t wait for them to go dead before we charge them.

Where do we go to recharge our souls?

To Mass.

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I


Mass is more than:

- Just an obligation
- It is something we do to recharge (a need).

Mass is something to **celebrate**:

- We receive God's Word.
- We celebrate the **sacrifice** of Jesus on the Cross for as Paul writes, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).
- We receive the Eucharist for Jesus said, this is my body which will be given up for you...this is the chalice of my blood...which will be poured out for you.

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Back to Our Goal For This Series

- There are those who say they don't come to Mass because they feel like they don't get much out of the Mass
- Maybe you feel this way sometimes
- This series is to help us get more out of the Mass by "**Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass**"
- Our goal in this series is to help you have a **personal encounter** with Jesus at Mass
- The Mass is the most important thing we do → rather than doing the minimum, we need to do it well


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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Part I: Laying the Foundation

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Sacraments as Mystery

- "The word *sacrament* also has its origins in the Greek term for "mystery," *mysterion*. The sense of the term *mystery* is something **unfathomable**, something so **extraordinary** and **overwhelming** that we can **never fully comprehend it**. (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 11)
- "The celebration of the sacraments contains the church's agreed-upon and time-tested signs, symbols, gestures, words, and the context in which these are enacted, all of which comprise what sacraments are and do. **Words will always fail to describe adequately and fully** what sacraments are and do." (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 2)

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### The Use of Things in the Sacraments

→ The use of ritual/active participation/whole body in the celebration of Mass

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### History – Early Celebration of Mass

- Initially, Christians continued to gather with Jews on the Sabbath for the Jewish worship that included readings from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and a “sermon” by the rabbi. Then the Christians gathered on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection for the Eucharist
- As hostility developed between Jews and Christians, Christians stopped going to Jewish services and did both sharing of the Word of God and the Eucharist on Sunday at one service (adding readings from the New Testament). The presider preached.
- Gathered privately for fear of persecution

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### History - Structure of the Mass

St. Justin Martyr, in his *First Apology* (circa 155 AD), shows us the same structure to Mass as we have today (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1345)

- “day of the sun” → “gather in the same place”
- Readings from apostles and prophets
- Presider “admonishes and challenges them” → homily
- Prayers
- “exchange the kiss”
- Offertory
- Eucharistic prayer
- Amen at end of Eucharistic prayer

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I


### History – Moving to Public Celebration

- 313 A.D. Edict of Milan – legalized Christianity → public worship
- Emperor donated large public buildings known as basilicas and supported building new ones
- No pews
- A little more history (on participation) to come but first a question

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I



What is the primary purpose of Mass?

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### What is the Primary Purpose of Mass?

- Is it just to feel good for an hour?
  - Music, homily... (everyone has different tastes)
- Give praise to God
  - *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 221* – “In what way is the Father the source and the goal of the liturgy? ***Through the liturgy the Father fills us*** with his blessings in the Word made flesh who died and rose for us and pours into our hearts the Holy Spirit. ***At the same time, the Church blesses the Father by her worship, praise, and thanksgiving and begs him for the gift of his Son and the Holy Spirit.***”

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Why do we celebrate Mass?

- Foster a ***deep relationship*** with God
  - What does it mean to “know” God? The Merriam-Webster dictionary phone app (secular dictionary) offers the following as definitions of “know”:
    - “to be ***acquainted*** or familiar with”
    - “to have a ***practical*** understanding of”
    - “to have ***experience*** of”
    - “to have ***understanding*** of”
    - “to ***recognize the nature of***”

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Who Celebrates the Mass?

*Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church*  
 “234. Who celebrates the heavenly liturgy? The heavenly liturgy is celebrated by the angels, by the saints of the Old and New Testament, particularly the Mother of God, by the Apostles, by the martyrs, and by the “great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue” (Revelation 7:9). When we celebrate the mystery of our salvation in the sacraments we participate in this eternal liturgy.”

(cf. Hebrews 12:1 – the “cloud of witnesses”)

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Eucharist as the Great Equalizer

“The Eucharist fulfills what Mary prophesized when she was pregnant with Jesus – namely that, in Jesus, the mighty would be brought down and the lowly would be raised up” (Rolheiser, 73).

Cf. I Corinthians 11:17-22

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### From the Moment We Walk in the Door

- Everything we do is rich in symbolism
  - Greeters
  - Blessing with Holy Water and the Sign of the Cross (invoking Trinity)
- What is our attitude or disposition as we enter the church? Are we truly open to what is being offered?

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Consider Your Attitude and Disposition Even Before You Leave Home

- Clothing – what does the clothing we wear to church say about how we see Mass?
    - Is Sunday Mass important enough to look **good** for?
- \*If coming from work, clothes necessary for work can be appropriate.

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Historical Development - Participation in the Mass During The Scholastic Period

“But it can also be said that for a great many of the faithful and less well educated, this era was **not a high point in their participation** in the liturgy or even in their **comprehension of what was occurring**, since Latin was no longer universally known. Even so, the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Mass, **was a source of religious and social cohesion.**” (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 94)

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Historical Development - Participation in the Mass in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

“The twentieth-century liturgical movement was undoubtedly the main stimulus within the church for the contemporary renewal of the sacramental practice and a revised understanding of the dynamism of the sacramental action. The work of liturgical scholars in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was responsible for a reawakening of the importance and centrality of liturgy as public worship that, by its nature, required the active participation of all participants.” (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 130).

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### From the Moment We Walk in the Door

- Active Participation
  - “Every liturgical celebration is an action of Christ the High Priest and of his Mystical Body, which is the Church. It therefore requires the participation of the People of God in the work of God” (*US Catechism for Adults*, 167).
  - “The entire Body of Christ, animated by the Holy Spirit, celebrates the liturgy. The celebrating assembly is the community of the baptized. Liturgy is not a matter of private prayer, but a public act of worship” (*US Catechism for Adults*, 170).

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I


### Active participation

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1142 “But “the members do not all have the same function” (Romans 12:4).

• Altar Servers	• Deacon
• Musicians	• Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
• Lector	• Ushers
• Commentator	• Greeters
• Priest	• Sacristan

Most importantly – the congregation

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

In addition to our attitude/disposition  
Our “active participation”  
includes our  
bodily movements  
and postures

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Genuflection

“A genuflection, made by bending the right knee to the ground, **signifies adoration**, and therefore it is reserved for the **Most Blessed Sacrament**, as well as for the **Holy Cross** from the solemn adoration during the liturgical celebration on Good Friday until the beginning of the Easter Vigil” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM, 274).

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Bow

“**A bow signifies reverence and honor** shown to the persons themselves or to the signs that represent them. There are two kinds of bow: a bow of the head and a bow of the body.

a) A bow of the head is made when the three Divine Persons are named together and at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honor Mass is being celebrated” (GIRM, 275).

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Bow (cont'd)

“b) A bow of the body, that is to say, a profound bow, is made to the altar; during the prayers *Munda cor meum* (Cleanse my heart) and *In spiritu humilitatis* (With humble spirit); in the Creed at the words *et incarnatus est* (and by the Holy Spirit . . . the Priest bows slightly as he pronounces the words of the Lord at the Consecration (GIRM, 275).

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### In the Pews before Mass

- Praying individually in the pews **before** Mass begins
  - To hand our troubles over to God
  - To ask God to open our hearts to what we hear in his Word and receive in the Eucharist
- What about talking to others in the pews?

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Silence

- Silence by design rather than necessity
  - Penitential Rite
  - Collect – following “Let us pray”
  - After each reading
  - After homily
  - After Communion

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Active Participation

- Postures (see GIRM 43 – for which posture during Mass)
  - Standing
  - Kneeling
  - Sitting
    - Sitting upright or slouching
- Unity in Posture
  - GIRM 42 “A common bodily posture, to be observed by all those taking part, is a ***sign of the unity*** of the members of the Christian community gathered together for the Sacred Liturgy, for it expresses the intentions and spiritual attitude of the participants and also fosters them.”

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Changes From the Second Vatican Council

- Which way the priest faces
- Vernacular
  - Why was Latin ever used?
  - Different approaches to translations
  - In the previous translation of the Roman Missal, the Memorial Acclamation had four variations. Here are two:
    - “Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus come in glory”
    - “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.”
    - These came from the same phrase in Latin.

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### “Homework”

- Go to Mass every week
- For reflection:
  - When I come to Mass, what helps me connect to my community of believers?
  - What ***attitude*** do I need to assume to help me participate fully in this believing community gathered to praise God?

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Future Schedule

- Wednesday, October 14, 2020 @6:30 pm – Part II – *Lex orandi, lex credendi* and The Liturgy of the Word
- Wednesday, November 18, 2020 @6:30 pm – Part III – Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rites
- When you exit this webinar a short evaluation questionnaire should come up to invite your feedback.

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### For more on the Mass on my website

- Articles
  - "The Roman Catholic Mass Explained" - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/the-mass.html>
  - "Implementing the New Roman Missal" - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/implement.html>
- Videos
  - *We Profess, We Believe* (5 part series on the Creed) - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/the-creed.html>
  - *Sacraments -: Channels of God's Grace* (5 part series on the Sacraments) - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video-series---sacraments---channels-of-god-s-grace.html>

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I


### Resources

*Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition.* Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

*Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church.* Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

Griffiths, the Very Rev. Canon Alan, "Presidential Prayers and Practice: Towards an *Ars Celebrandi*," International Committee on English in the Liturgy. 2010.

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## Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I

### Resources (cont'd)

Hoever, Rev. Hugo, S.O. Cist. (Editor), *St. Joseph Daily Missal (Completely Revised Edition)*, Catholic Book Publishing, New York, 1961.

Irwin, Rev. Monsignor Kevin, M. "Living a Eucharistic Life," International Committee on English in the Liturgy. 2010.

Irwin, Rev. Kevin W., *The Sacraments: Historical Foundations and Liturgical Theology.* Paulist Press, New York. 2016.

Mallon, Fr. James, *Divine Renovation: Bringing you parish from maintenance to mission.* New London, CT: Twenty Third Publications. 2014.

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## ***Uncovering the Treasures of the Mass, Part I***

### **Resources (cont'd)**

Rolheiser, Ronald, *Our One Great Act of Fidelity: Waiting For Christ in the Eucharist*. New York: Image. 2011.

*St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition*. New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

USCCB, *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. Washington, DC: USCCB. 2011.

USCCB, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Washington, DC: USCCB. 2006.

USCCB, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*. Washington, DC: USCCB. 2007.