



THIRD MEETING LITURGY AND COMMUNITY

Eucharistic liturgy is the highest form of prayer. It combines community and God in a powerful way. Through liturgy, we experience God four different ways. The first is in the readings of God's word. The second is the presence of Christ in those gathered. Matthew 18: 20 "wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." The third way is through the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The fourth way is through the person of the priest. Liturgy then is a powerful experience of God that strengthens us for our daily lives.

The focus of this discussion is to understand the Mass, learn what makes our liturgy different from other Christian denominations, and why your involvement in community is important,. Remember we all "say the Mass." The priest leads us in that celebration.

Discussion

- As Catholics we believe the bread and wine is not just a symbol of Christ, we believe it **is** Christ. *How is this different from other Christian denominations?* Bible references John 6:32-59, Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22:17-20,
- At the presentation of the gifts, we not only bring up bread, water, wine and money, we are bringing up all we did in our lives, the good and the bad. The whole community is really placed before God. We offer our lives to him. When the gifts are given up to God at the Great Amen (when the priest elevates the cup and host,) we offer up all of us - every thought, word, and action - and ask God to purify us. *Make a list of all the things you did yesterday.*
- During communion, we are given Christ himself to be food for our life journey. We are strengthened to be Christ to one another in our thoughts, words, and actions. *Now look at your list and circle the things that could be done better with God's help.*
- Mass is not a place where you go to be entertained but rather a time when we offer ourselves up to God, are purified and fed in order to do Christ's work in the world. *Do you sing and say the responses when you attend Mass and really try to be mentally present during liturgy?*
- *What were the readings about from last Sunday's Mass? Who won the latest sporting event or what was the news this week?* If you can recall worldly news events, but not the Mass readings, it is time to change your ways. Biblical passages are much more important than any worldly news since we are hearing the Word of God.
- Use the Mass outline for your discussion. Try to attend liturgy together and then share your thoughts.

Your role in the life of the community

- Talk about what groups you belong to (family, church, school, team, social, work etc.)
 - Pick two characteristics
 - What makes these groups strong?
 - What makes them weak?
 - Describe what the group would look like if people chose not to be present or rarely showed up for meetings.
 - Discuss what your group would look like if all the members decided to care deeply about one another, suffer for one another, and to serve one another.
 - What demands would be made of you?
 - What sacrifices?
 - What stumbling blocks?
 - What rewards would there be?
- Read Acts 2: 43 – 47. How did the early church care for one another?
- What are some practical things you can do to make our church community better?
- Discuss how the church would be changed if we all made this level of commitment.

Sponsor signature _____ Date _____

Candidate signature _____ Date _____

MEETING SUMMARY (To be filled out by candidate)

One thing I enjoyed about our meeting was:

Some things I learned about community and Eucharistic liturgy:

Something I learned about myself:

**Keep this completed form in your red Confirmation folder – bring folder to interview.*

FOR USE WITH MEETING THREE ON LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering song	
Greeting	The celebrant welcomes us and invites us to pray.
Penitential Rite	We confess our sinfulness and ask forgiveness of God and each other
Gloria	Prayer of praise
Opening Prayer	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First reading	Taken from the Old Testament
Responsorial Psalm	
Second Reading	Taken from the New Testament
Gospel Acclamation	
Gospel	A reading by the priest or deacon from one of the four gospels
Homily	Explanation of the readings given by the priest or deacon
Profession of Faith	The Nicene Creed is recited.
General Intercessions	(Prayer of the Faithful) Short petitions of prayer offered for the needs of the church and all God's people.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts	The preparation for the meal as we offer our gifts to God.
Prayer over the Gifts	
Eucharistic Prayer	A prayer of praise and thanksgiving during which the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ (Transubstantiation)
The Lord's Prayer	Our Father
Sign of Peace	We greet one another with the Lord's peace
Breaking of the Bread	The celebrant breaks the Eucharistic bread and pours the consecrated wine in preparation for communion.
Communion	
Period of Silence or Song of Praise	
Prayer after Communion	

CONCLUDING RITE

Greeting	
Blessing	
Dismissal	The deacon or priest invites all to go in peace.