

The Gloria

The Gloria is also known as the Greater Doxology or the Angelic Hymn. The Gloria begins with the song of the angels announcing the birth of Christ and then opens us a hymn of praise to God the Father, and Christ the Lamb of God. The opening words ask for two things: Glory to God and peace for us. Its purpose: to praise, bless, adore, glorify, and thank God for his great glory. The rest of the hymn is addressed to Christ, the Lamb of God.

The Collect (Opening Prayer)

It collects the prayers of all who are gathered. The priest invites the people, "Let us pray." During the period of silence, we offer the intentions dearest to us. The priest, acting in the person of Christ begins to pray the Collect prayer in the name of the whole People of God and all who are present. The opening lines praise God, the middle lines ask him for something, and the concluding doxology sums up the prayer by praising the Trinity.

"Amen"

Amen is probably the most commonly used word in the prayers of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. It expresses a desire that all may be fulfilled as God desires it.

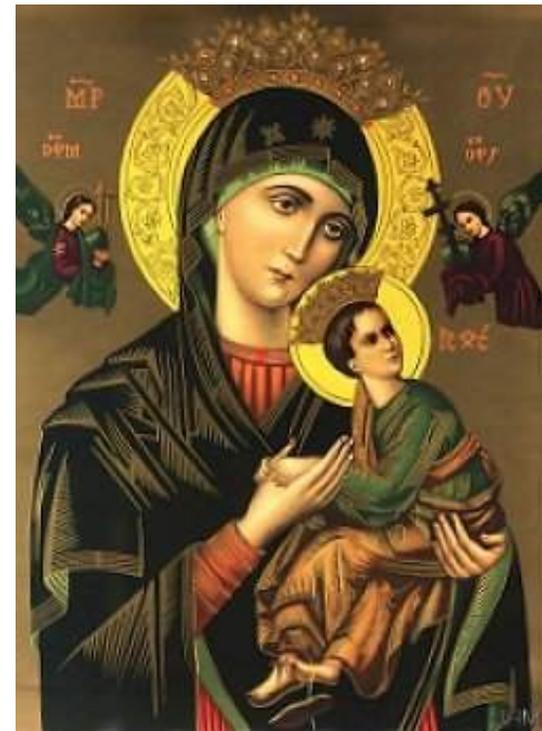
Discussion Questions:

1. How does Mass begin?
2. How do the greeting of the people and the altar differ and how are they the same?
3. How do the Acts of Penitence center on the mercy of Christ? Why not just pray for the forgiveness of our sins?
4. Discuss the origins and current use of the Kyrie.
5. In the Collect, why do we pause after the Priest says, "Let us pray"?
6. The "Amen" is the most popular response of the people during Mass. What does it mean and why is it used so often?

The Mass Deconstructed

A Liturgical Catechesis

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES



**Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Roman Catholic Parish
Scottsdale**

2 purposes of the Introductory Rites:

- To form us into one people in Christ
- To dispose our hearts to receive what God is about to give us in word and sacrament.

Christ is present:

- In the assembly, “Where two or three are gathered in my name,”
- The Priest presiding in his person
- His Word proclaimed
- The Blessed Sacrament

We begin with a Procession:

The Entrance Procession and its song (antiphon) are both designed to weave us together so that we can recognize ourselves as one people, One Body in Christ.

Greeting the Altar and the People Gathered Together

The altar is the primary sign of the presence of Christ, who is the altar and sacrifice, the giver and the gift. The Priest bows to Christ and kisses the altar in a sign of affection, veneration and greeting. The Priest’s chair in the parish is reserved only for the one who, in the place of the Bishop, is the chief shepherd, teacher and sanctifier of the community. In the Sign of the Cross we profess our faith in the Blessed trinity and in our crucified Savior for our whole being belongs to Christ and to his Cross.

The Lord be with you.

The origins of the greeting lie in the Book of Ruth and in the Annunciation “...the Lord is with you.”

And with your Spirit.

Like the spirit which God sent down upon the seventy wise men to help Moses to rule the Israelites, like the spirit which God sent upon the sons of Aaron that they might offer sacrifice in the Temple.

The Act of Penance

The Mass is a gathering of like-minded people who are centered on God, from its first to its final moments. What matters in this assembly gathered for the worship of God, is not all that we’ve accomplished, but that we are sinners and that Christ died to save us. We are like the prodigal son, too often concerned with selfishness and sin.

The Act of Contrition

- Part 1 is a confession that I have sinned grievously by acts and omissions through my own fault.
- Part 2 asks the angels and the saints and everyone present to “pray for me to the Lord, our God.”

It is important to understand that the Prayer of Absolution at Mass does not take the place of the need to confess our sins. Only the Absolution we receive in the Sacrament of Penance takes away our sins definitively.

Kyrie Eleison! Christe Eleison! Kyrie Eleison!

The Kyrie is part of the Act of Penance. The ancient Greek chant is one of the oldest and most treasured prayers of the Catholic Church. It is in the original language of the Gospels.

Sunday Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water

Holy Water is blessed and sprinkled on the people as a reminder of their Baptism and to keep us faithful to the Spirit Christ has given us.

Other Rites

- Procession of Palms on Palm Sunday.
- Procession of Candles on the Presentation of the Lord.
- The greeting of the body at Christian Funerals.
- The solemn lighting of the new fire at the Easter Vigil.