

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
THE LAST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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The Mass

"Do This in Remembrance of Me"

A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel



Part 25: A Deeper Look at the Homily



This week, we look more closely at the Homily. As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, the homily "serves as an integral link between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Before the apostles recognized Jesus in the 'breaking of the bread,' he explained the Scriptures to them, 'filling their hearts with a burning desire.' The homily strives to kindle a fire of love for God and His Church. As a 'bridge' it draws us deeper into the mysteries we celebrate—most especially the mystery of the most Holy Eucharist" (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 9). So, as you can begin to see, the homily is really packed with a number of important goals!

Inspiration from the Church Fathers

One of the earliest written descriptions of the Mass is from St. Justin Martyr, who was writing a little earlier than 165 AD. As he describes the prayers and meaning of the Mass, I am always struck by how similar they are to our celebrations today. It is a great testament to the guiding work of the Holy Spirit and continuity of our Catholic faith and liturgy. When St. Justin describes the homily, he talks about how the leader exhorts the people to imitate the good things they have just heard. All these centuries later, preachers are still following this same pattern. The priest may use different kinds of homilies for different circumstances, taking into account what the people are like, what they know already, what kinds of involvement they have, what types of concerns are currently happening on the local level, etc. All of these elements will affect both what the faithful need to hear and how well they will understand it and live it out each day. No matter what the circumstances, and no matter what the background of the people is like, all homilies really have one thing in common: Jesus Christ who died and rose for us and our life in him. A wise old seminary professor once said, "If you never say anything else in the pulpit except Jesus loves you and wants you to be with him, the main essentials will always be in every homily."

A Bridge Between the Two Halves

So, our focus should always be on Christ, his love for us, and what that means in our lives. We focus on Christ's four-fold presence to us at every Mass: he is present in the Word of God, in the priest, in his assembled people, and especially in his Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist in a most unique way. We focus on Jesus through the Scriptures and God's loving Word to his people. We focus on Jesus dwelling among us, offering himself for our sins, rising in triumph, and continuing to be with us through the Holy Eucharist. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1346, states: "The liturgy of the Word and liturgy of the Eucharist together form 'one single act of worship'; the Eucharistic table set for us is the table both of the Word of God and of the Body of the Lord." It is important to remember that the Mass is not just a sequence of unrelated events: it is a perfect unity in Christ. The first half helps us get to know God (and ourselves), nourishing our faith in God; the second half helps us unite with him in body and soul. The hope of the homily, then, is to help bring these two halves together so that the faithful can go out into the world and really live the life of Christ.

For Reflection:

1. Read about St. Peter's first "homily" and its impact in the account from Acts 2:14-41. Commit to more attentive listening to the homily the next time you participate in Mass, and ask for the grace to put the lessons of the homily into action in your own life.
2. On the journey to Emmaus, two disciples experience their hearts burning within when the Risen Lord Jesus interprets the Scriptures for them (see Lk 24:13-35). A Gospel acclamation preceding this Gospel passage implores, "Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; / make our hearts burn while you speak to us." Make this prayer your own as you prepare to participate actively in the Liturgy of the Word, including the homily.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog



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8:00PM

THURS

NOVEMBER

30

No sign up. Just show up!

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Sunday, December 3rd

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ADVENT

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

HOLY MASS: 8:00AM • 9:00AM • 7:00PM

COOKIE EXCHANGE & FAMILY ROSARY: 8:00PM

ADORE NIGHTS

EVERY THURSDAY • 7:00PM

ADORE is a candle-lit evening of Eucharistic Adoration with Confession (two priests), and songs of praise and worship. Prepare the "inn of your heart" this Advent to be a worthy place for Jesus by going to Confession.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:00PM • ADORE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In it we listen to Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or song that reflects on the lesson's message.

Christmas Day, December 25th falls on a Monday this year, which means that Masses on Sunday, December 24th present the unusual situation of being two different feasts: the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Vigil of Christmas. Please carefully read the schedule below.

CHRISTMAS THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS

8:30AM

11:00AM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

4:00PM

6:30PM

10:00PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

11:00AM



The Next Two Weeks...

Week of November 26th The Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday, November 26th

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:30am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
11:00am Holy Mass (Kim Myers)
5:00pm Holy Mass (Willard Hudson)

Monday, November 27th

8:00am Holy Mass (The Intentions of Angelo Rivera)
6:30pm Scouts
7:00pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, November 28th

7:00pm Holy Mass (Mary Williams)
7:30pm Confessions

Wednesday, November 29th

9:00am Holy Mass (Antoinette & Cecil Grilli)
6:30pm Parish Leadership Summit

Thursday, November 30th

Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle
7:30am Men's Rosary
8:00am Holy Mass (Ruth & Joe Creedon)
7:00pm ADORE Night (Confession & Adoration)

Friday, December 1st

8:00am Holy Mass (Tom Easley)

Saturday, December 2nd

6:30am Women at the Well
7:15am That Man Is You!
8:30am Holy Mass (Doris Hecker)
9:00am Confessions

St. Vincent De Paul Society November Food Pantry Need

Canned Soup

Please leave donations at wooden boxes near Church entrances.
Thank you for your generosity!

Offering (Sunday, November 19th)

Data not available at press time.

October Mass Attendance Average

2023 852 people (+95)
2022 757 people (+107)
2021 650 people (+52)
2020 598 people (-404)
2019 1,002 people

Securely Give Online

To quickly give online, simply scan this QR Code. This will take you to our secure online giving platform at Our Sunday Visitor.



Week of December 3rd First Week of Advent

Sunday, December 3rd

First Week of Advent

8:30am Holy Mass (Richard Lumpe)
9:30am Family of Faith: Morning in Bethlehem
11:00am Holy Mass (Jack Knauer)
5:00pm Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
6:00pm High School & Middle School Youth Group
6:00pm Catechism in a Year Dinner and Discussion Group

Monday, December 4th

8:00am Holy Mass (Bob & Elmira Leister)
6:30pm Family of Faith
6:30pm Scouts
7:00pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 5th

7:00pm Holy Mass (Thomas Fredrick Beck)
7:30pm Confessions

Wednesday, December 6th

9:00am Holy Mass (Emma Petrosky)

Thursday, December 7th

Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
8:00am Holy Mass (Deceased Members of Gallen Family)
9:30am Little Saints
3:15pm Courageous Daughters of the Eucharist
5:30pm Squires of St. Catharine
7:00pm ADORE Revival Night (Confession & Adoration)

Friday, December 8th

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Holy Mass (Margaret Petrosky)
9:00am Holy Mass
7:00pm Holy Mass (Bill Diehl Sr. and Jr.)
8:00pm Cookie Exchange and Family Rosary

Saturday, December 9th

7:15am That Man Is You!
8:30am Holy Mass (Dunstan & Machock Families)
9:00am Confessions
9:00am First Reconciliation Retreat

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

Sunday-Friday

6:00am-12:00am

Saturday

6:00am-4:00pm

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Confession Times

Tuesday 7:30pm

Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 9:00am

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Beginning December 5th

Wednesdays: 8:00am-9:00am
Beginning December 6th

Saturdays: 6:30am-8:00am
Beginning December 9th

Children welcome at morning sessions

God wants to draw you closer to himself this Advent. He wants to invite you away from the hustle and bustle to sit at his feet. And what better way to do that than through His Word? This new installment of the Rejoice! series from Ascension Press will immerse you in the readings that anchor us during the Advent season—the Sunday Mass readings.

This year's Advent pilgrimage (for the busy Catholic) will bear fruit in your life as Jesus comes to live more fully in your heart, and you experience greater joy and peace throughout the Advent season and beyond.

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