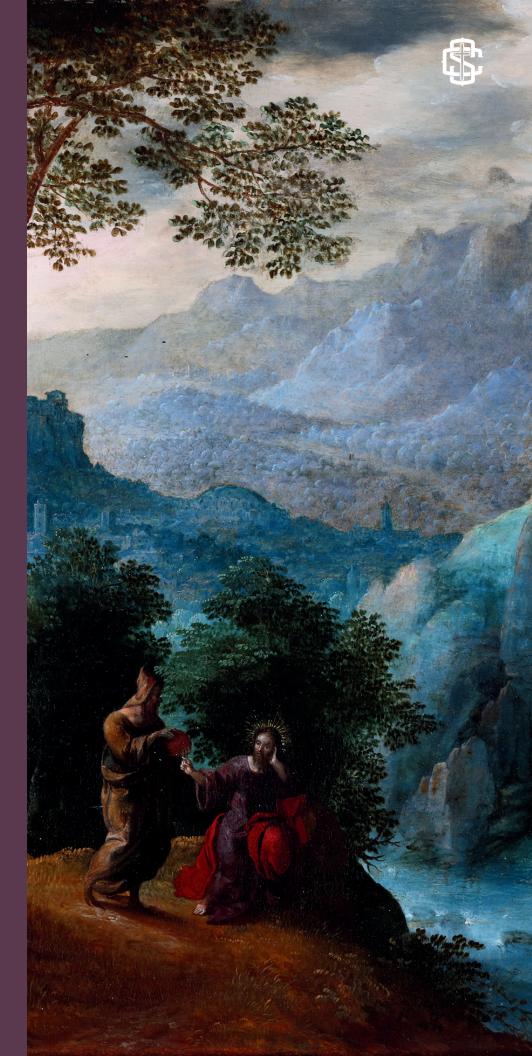
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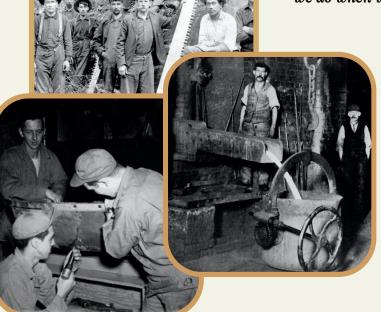
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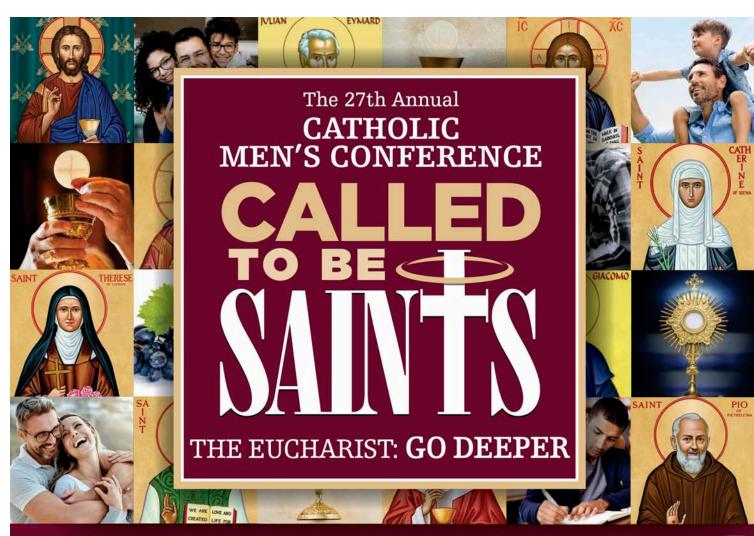


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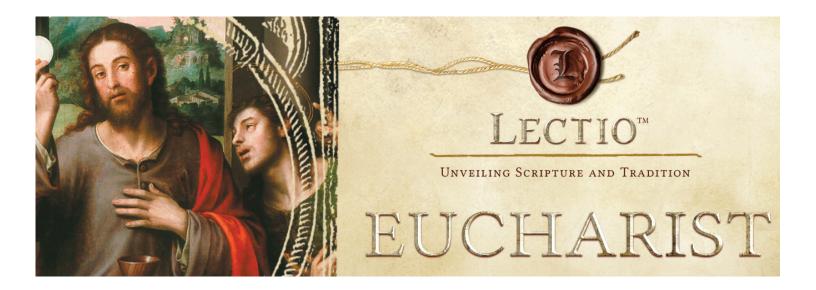
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"Do This in Remembrance of Me" A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass



Part 33: Offertory Water and Wine



As we continue through the **Offertory**, this time we take a closer look at some of the prayers at the altar as the bread and wine are placed there. After the bread and wine are brought forward, they are placed on the altar by the priest (or a deacon if there is one present). Then the priest, speaking either silently or aloud, says the prayers over the bread and wine. These are the prayers that begin, "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life."

You may also recognize the prayer as the priest holds the chalice: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink." As the Diocese of Peoria reminds us, "If there is no music playing, [the priest] may do this out loud. In this case, we would respond to these prayers by saying, 'Blessed be God forever!' These prayers are ancient and have profound meaning. We place before him in our procession 'our' gifts, yet in these formulas we immediately admit that while they are 'work of human hands' they are still ultimately from God. For this reason, we

bless God for his goodness and ask him to accept and transform the gifts into 'bread of life' and 'spiritual drink'" (A Study of the Mass, p. 11).

The Mystery of the Water and Wine

As the priest is preparing the wine, the Diocese of Peoria continues, "notice that he places a small amount of water into the chalice with the wine. As he does this he says: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.' The Church maintains this very ancient custom of mixing water and wine as it uniquely symbolizes what we pray for. At the Mass, we offer our lives in union with Christ. In all our weakness, in all our smallness, we pray to be inseparably united to the divine. The small drops of water symbolize us. As the water becomes inseparably united to the wine, we pray we may become inseparably united to Jesus Christ" (A Study of the Mass, p. 11–12).

Along these lines, Charles Belmonte teaches, "It was ancient custom to take the wine mixed with water, which the chalice of Jesus in the Last Supper contained. The Church retained this gesture to symbolize the sanctification of the Christian which is accomplished through his union with Jesus Christ. The water becomes the symbol of ourselves: our lives, with our weaknesses. Have you stopped to think what happens to the drops of water mixed with the wine? They are absorbed by it and then become inseparable from it. So does Jesus absorb us. The drops of water are of negligible worth; they are not even enough to quench anyone's thirst. Yet they will end up being divine blood! And all that because they let themselves be mixed with the wine and be dissolved in it, thus manifesting self-denial, personal renunciation. At this moment, we grow in our desire to offer ourselves in total self-surrender, as the few drops of water in the chalice have reminded us. So, we will be able to become one with Jesus Christ after the Consecration" (Understanding the Mass, p. 114).

An Opportunity for Personal Prayer

What a meaningful moment in this part of the Mass! A transition time in the Mass that could be easily missed, these brief prayers sometimes said silently provide a great invitation for prayer:

Jesus, help my heart to unite more perfectly with yours. I feel at times so far from you, but you give of yourself so that I have this opportunity to be more closely united with you. Help me to be attentive in this moment and bring my heart joy from knowing you will soon be truly present on the altar, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Eucharist!

For Reflection:

- 1. Make Father Luke's prayer above your own as you participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- 2. Next time you participate in Mass, pay close attention to the preparation of the chalice and the mixing of water and wine. Make an act of faith, trusting that Jesus can and will receive all you offer him and transform your weakness into strength by his divine power.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog



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SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Cans of fruit
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PRAYER, FASTING, ALMSGIVING

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to practice self-control through fasting.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to exercise self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season.

In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."

WEEKLY CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesdays • 7:30pm Thursdays • 7:00pm Fridays • 7:30pm Saturdays • 9:00am

Whether it's been three months, three years, or 30 years since your last Confession, you can always begin again and receive the healing mercy of Jesus.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent 7:30pm

Confessions will be heard immediately following Stations of the Cross Children's Stations of the Cross will take place on Good Friday at 9:00am No evening Stations on Good Friday

FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Days of Fasting: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (ages 18-59)

Days of Abstinence from meat: Every Friday





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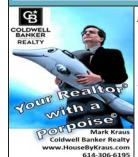




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The Next Two Weeks...

Week of February 18th First Week of Lent

Week of February 25th Second Week of Lent

Sunday, February 18th

First Sunday of Lent

8:30am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)

9:30am St. Vincent de Paul 11:00am Holy Mass (Marion Caridi) Coffee and Donuts 12:00pm Holy Mass (Esther Bielman) 5:00pm

6:00pm High School & Middle School Youth Group

Monday, February 19th

Presidents' Day: No School

8:00am Holy Mass (John L. Eberts)

6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 20th

Holy Mass (Janet Gallen) 7:00pm

7:30pm Confessions

Wednesday, February 21st

6:30am Working Challenges: Men's Retreat Series

9:00am Holy Mass (Joy Babbitt)

Thursday, February 22nd

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Holy Mass (Donna Hinterschied) 8:00am

3:15pm Courageous Daughters of the Eucharist Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible 6:00pm 7:00pm ADORE Night (Confession & Adoration)

Friday, February 23rd

Holy Mass (Theresa Loomis) 8:00am

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24th

7:15am That Man Is You! Holy Mass (Jack Knauer) 8:30am

Confessions 9:00am 12:00pm Scout Derby

St. Vincent De Paul Society February Food Pantry Need

Canned Vegetables

Please leave donations at wooden boxes near Church entrances.

Sunday, February 25th

Second Week of Lent

2nd Collection: A Good & Growing Need: Seminarian Support Fund

8:15am First Communion Retreat 8:30am Holy Mass (Dick Hinterschied Sr.)

9:30am St. Vincent de Paul

9:30am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 11:00am Holy Mass (Thomas Fredrick Beck) 5:00pm Holy Mass (People of Parish) High School Youth Group 6:00pm

Monday, February 26th

8:00am Holy Mass (Al Schneider)

6:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 27th

Memorial of St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

7:00pm Holy Mass (Janet Gallen)

7:30pm Confessions

Wednesday, February 28th

Working Challenges: Men's Retreat Series 6:30am

9:00am Holy Mass (Linda Tunnell)

Thursday, February 29th

7:30am Men's Rosary

8:00am Holy Mass (Stephen Gilmore)

6:00pm Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible 7:00pm ADORE Night (Confession & Adoration)

Friday, March 1st

8:00am Holy Mass (Tom Easly) 2:15pm School Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross 7:30pm

Saturday, March 2nd

6:30am Women at the Well 7:15am That Man Is You!

Holy Mass (William Manierre Sr.) 8:30am

9:00am Confessions

6:00pm SPICE St. Patrick's Day Party

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How Does the Mass Change During Lent?

Lent is here, and with it come several differences to the way we worship at Mass. You may notice a few differences in what you see and hear—in the music, and the way that the Church is decorated during Lent.

Mass during Lent should feel different—as if something is missing. The Church does this on purpose. We restrain our use of the some-things in order to more purely focus our attention on the Some-One: Jesus Christ Our Lord, truly and really present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

Purple is the color associated with Lent, and suggests repentance, mourning, and suffering. Purple, as all colors, is full of symbolism. Its deep dark richness invites us to slow down and consider the sacrifices Jesus did for us.

The Bible tells us that the garment the guard put on Jesus during his trial and beatings was purple. Thus, purple symbolizes pain, suffering, and mourning and penitence. "The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him..."

Crosses and images may also be veiled beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of "fasting" from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates on Good Friday in the veneration of the holy wood on on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins.

The most obvious difference in our Mass music during Lent is the lack of an *Alleluia* being sung before the Gospel, or at any other time during the Mass. It is instead replaced by a different acclamation of praise, e.g., "*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!*" or "Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!"

Likewise, the *Gloria* is omitted at Lenten Masses. Unlike the *Alleluia*, which has no exception on this rule, the *Gloria* is included on some occasions: on feasts and solemnities which fall during Lent, as well as most wedding Masses and the Chrism Mass during Holy Week (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, #53).

In addition to avoiding pieces which include *Allelluia* in the text, we moderate our use of **instruments**. During Lent instruments are only allowed to support the singing (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, #313). The exception to this rule is on Laetare Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), as well as on feasts and solemnities.

The mind of the Church, when it comes to music at Mass, is that "great importance [is] attached to the use of singing in the celebration of the Mass" (*GIRM*, #40). This is no different during Lent. Singing should not be eliminated or even reduced during Lent. It is only the character of the music that changes, **and accompanied singing is to be encouraged as much as possible.** Remember, the primary instrument of worship is the human voice, and our goal is to not simply sing *at* Mass, but to sing *the* Mass.

Other musical changes you may hear include short **antiphons** (similar to the Responsorial Psalm) where we would typically sing a hymn. You may hear also hear the "Holy, Holy," "Mystery of Faith," "Amen," and "Lamb of God" acclamations that we sing during the Eucharistic Prayer sung acapella (unaccompanied) – some in English and some in **Latin**, in addition to singing the "Kyrie" (Greek version of the "Lord Have Mercy") at the beginning of Mass.

In addition to music, **decorations are simplified** during Lent. Flowers which decorate the altar are not allowed—again, except on Laetare Sunday, feasts and solemnities.

Liturgical seasons each have their own characteristics, and Lent is a season which stands out from the rest for its differences. Let us embrace these practices to help us to draw closer to our crucified Lord Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, as we turn away from sin and prepare for the great Easter celebration.





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