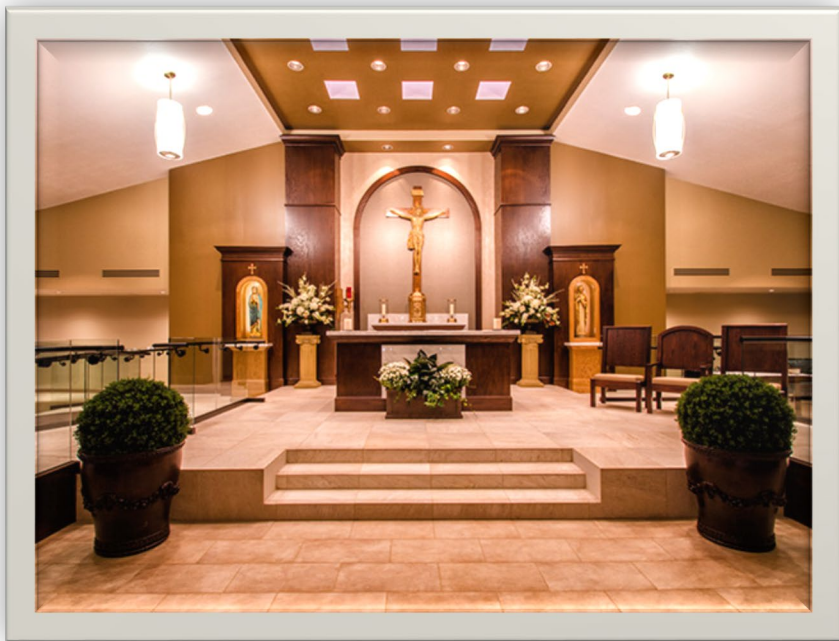


A Guide to the Mass



www.littleflowertoledo.org

We believe that Jesus Christ placed the Eucharist at the heart of Christian living. Here at Little Flower, the Eucharist forms the center of our community of faith.

In the Eucharist – what popularly is called Mass by many – Jesus is really encountered. During every Mass, heaven and earth meet and God gives us His very life. This is no mere metaphor or simple symbol. Under the appearance of bread and wine, Jesus is literally and wholly present – body, blood, soul and divinity.

The centrality of the Eucharist in the lives of the first Christians is apparent. Among other places, we witness this in the description of the early Church’s life in the Acts of the Apostles: “They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

We hope this Mass aid will assist you in a deeper understanding and fuller participation in the celebration of the Mass. We are grateful you have come to join us, and we look forward to sharing our journey of faith with you.

Preparation for the Celebration of the Mass

Congregation

All are invited to use the time prior to the beginning of Mass to prepare our minds and hearts in quiet prayer and reflection.

Celebrant

For 30 minutes prior to Mass, Father is in the St. John Paul II Room to hear confessions.

Please be attentive to silencing all devices and disposing of gum/candy.

Please pick up a hymnal on the way into Church to aid you in participating in a full and active way.

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession and Hymn (*stand*)

We come together for worship.

Congregation

We begin Mass by joining in the Entrance Hymn. The number of this hymn can be found on the front cover of the bulletin and will also be announced prior to Mass.

Celebrant

The servers lead the lector (one who proclaims the reading) and Father in the Entrance Procession.

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

We make the sign of the cross together:

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit...

Congregation: Amen.

OPTION A

Priest: The Lord be with you...

Congregation: And with your spirit.

OPTION B

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

OPTION C

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Penitential Rite

We prepare to hear God's Word in Scripture and to receive His Body in Communion by asking forgiveness for those times we have failed to love and live up to our calling.

OPTION A

Priest and Congregation together:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

OPTION B

Priest: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Congregation: For we have sinned against you.

Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

Congregation: And grant us your salvation.

OPTION C

Priest: *[Acclamation]*, Lord, have mercy

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: *[Acclamation]*, Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: *[Acclamation]*, Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Congregation: Amen.

The Gloria and the Liturgy of the Word

The Gloria

*We join in praising God and reflecting on His goodness and forgiving love.
The Gloria is sung or recited on all Sundays of the year, except during
Advent and Lent.*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word (*be seated*)

As a Congregation, we listen attentively to the Word of God, the story of our salvation, as found in the Bible. The Sunday readings are presented in a three-year cycle (A,B,C) and the weekday readings in a two-year cycle (I and II). People throughout the universal Church hear the same readings. On Sundays, we hear three readings, usually one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament letters, and one from the Gospels.

A member of the Congregation (Lector) will read each of the first two readings with the same conclusion:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

After the First Reading, the lector or cantor will lead the Congregation in a psalm response.

Alleluia (*stand*)

After the Second Reading, we sing an Alleluia signaling the coming proclamation of the Gospel.

The Gospel is read by the priest or deacon. If a deacon reads, he first goes to the priest and asks for a blessing. Prayed quietly, the blessing begs for the grace to worthily proclaim the Gospel.

Priest/Deacon: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Priest/Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____.
The priest will then make a sign of the cross on his forehead, lips and heart. The Congregation is invited to do the same. This is a way of asking that the Gospel be in our minds, on our lips and in our hearts.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel:

Priest/Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The priest/deacon then kisses the book of the gospel.

Homily (be seated)

The priest or deacon will then preach about the Scriptures or parts of the Mass.

The Profession of Faith (Creed) (stand)

We join in professing our Catholic faith at each Sunday Mass. We normally proclaim the Nicene Creed, although it may be replaced with the Apostles' Creed.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
|bow|
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayer of the Faithful

These prayers are expressions of our needs and the needs of the Church and the world. The reader states the petition and all respond with "Lord, hear our prayer" or another given response.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts (be seated)

As the priest and servers are preparing the altar, there is often a collection taken up at Masses on Sunday. This is an opportunity for the members of the Congregation to practice their Christian responsibility of stewardship and share personal resources to support the needs of the parish and its mission. This monetary offering also represents our gift of self.

Individuals from the Congregation are asked to present the bread and wine. We bring these simple gifts to God, our Father, asking that they be transformed into the Body and Blood of His Son, Jesus.

Once the priest has received the gifts, he prays a prayer of blessing over them. These prayers may be prayed aloud or quietly if a song is being sung.

Priest: 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.

Congregation: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: 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.

Congregation: Blessed be God for ever.

The priest washes his hands and prays quietly. He then invites the congregation to stand and pray:

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**Congregation: May the Lord accept
the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

The priest will then pray a Prayer over the Offerings, the wording of which changes with each Mass. The Congregation responds with “Amen.”

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer is the center and summit of the entire Mass.

Opening Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right and just.

Preface

The priest then prays the preface, giving specific reasons why we give God thanks. This is a fitting prayer as Eucharist means thanksgiving.

Holy, Holy, Holy

All are invited to join in this hymn of praise, based on words from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. We sing with the angels, praising God and proclaiming how holy and good God is.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

There are several options of Eucharistic Prayers from which the Priest can choose. These prayers include praise and thanksgiving, asking the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, and the actual words of institution: “This is my Body” and “This is my Blood.”

Acclamation of Faith

Following the words of Institution, the priest announces the mystery of faith. Our response acclaims Christ, who is present under the forms of bread and wine. Following the priest's invitation, we respond with one of three acclamations.

Priest: The Mystery of Faith.

Congregation:

OPTION A

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

OPTION B

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

OPTION C

**Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.**

The Great Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with the Doxology and Amen. The Great Amen is our response and affirmation of all that the priest has prayed in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

Congregation: Amen.

The Communion and Concluding Rites

The Lord's Prayer (*stand*)

After the priest gives a brief invitation, everyone prays the Lord's prayer together.

Priest: At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say.

**Congregation: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days, that,
by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Congregation: For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are Yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Sign of Peace

Following our praying of the Lord's Prayer, the priest prays to Jesus for peace and unity in the Church and invites us to share a sign of this peace with one another.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles,
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Congregation: Amen.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Lamb of God

During the breaking of the bread, the priest recites quietly a short prayer as he places a small piece of the consecrated bread into the chalice.

During this time, we sing or say the Lamb of God.

Congregation:

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace. (kneel)**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Congregation: Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Holy Communion

Reception of Holy Communion is for those baptized Catholics who fully believe and profess the teachings of the Catholic Church and are free from grave sin. Others who are present may come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing their arms over their chest. We approach the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion to receive the Body of Christ. Whether we choose to receive Holy Communion in our hand or on our tongue, the words remain the same:

Priest/Eucharistic Minister: The Body of Christ.

Individual: Amen.

We then have the option of partaking of the Precious Blood. The words are similar:

Priest/Eucharistic Minister: The Blood of Christ.

Individual: Amen.

After returning to the pew, we spend time in quiet prayer until the rest of the Congregation receives Holy Communion.

Prayer after Communion (stand)

The Communion Rite concludes with the Prayer after Communion. The words of the prayer change with each Mass, but begin and end the same way.

Priest: Let us pray...

Congregation: Amen.

The Concluding Rites

At the end of Mass, we again enter into a dialogue with the Priest. As the Priest blesses us, he makes the Sign of the Cross over us. We are invited to make the Sign of the Cross along with him.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Priest: May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

The priest/deacon will then conclude with the dismissal which is a reminder to us that we enter the world with a mission. There are several options:

OPTION A

Priest/Deacon: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

OPTION B

Priest/Deacon: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

OPTION C

Priest/Deacon: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

OPTION D

Priest/Deacon: Go in peace.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

The congregation often joins in a final hymn as the priest and servers leave the Church.

