

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THE MASS



Gathered in Christ

This is article 2 of 21 of the Mass series

Getting to Mass on a given Sunday can be tricky. Getting a family to Mass in time to get a pew can be a miracle, but no greater than the miracle of Christ making himself present to those gathered in worship. To approach Mass with a greater, we have to be aware of the beauty of how Christ makes himself present within the gathered community.

Gathering before Mass

Christ is present in those assembled. Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst” (Matthew 18:20) Those gathered at Mass as there for the same reason as you — to worship and receive Christ. It is very important to acknowledge Christ’s presence in those we gather with for Mass, however, we must do so respectfully. We can carry joy in our hearts, and have a genuine smile on our faces, as we greet others on our way in Church. We may greet the gathering assembly before Mass, however, the Church instructs us to offer a moment of personal silence and reflection before Mass. This helps us gather our thoughts, our feelings, and just offer them all to God before our worship.

As we enter the Church, be sure to acknowledge the true Sacramental presence of Jesus Christ within the Tabernacle. There will always be a sanctuary lamp lit to indicate the Eucharist is indeed present in the Tabernacle. Be sure to make a genuflect among the first things you do upon entering the Church. It is also great to acknowledge Christ present in the Word. Before Mass begins, and we listen to sacred scripture in the Liturgy of the Word, take time to read the Mass readings personally. The helps you prepare for the readings to come.

Mass Greeting

After the ministerial priest has processed in the Church, the opening hymn has been sung, and the sign of the cross, the priest makes an acknowledgment the gathering of worshipers by the Greeting. The priest greets the gathered with “The Lord be with you.” Then the gathered respond, “and with your Spirit.” With this greeting and response, all enter into the mystery of the Mass together and the Church gathered is manifested as the Body of Christ.