

What is the Mass?

For centuries and until now, saints, theologians, doctors of the Church, popes have been writing, expounding and teaching about the Mass. So glorious, so far beyond our understanding, so divine is Mass that it is and will remain a Sacred Mystery to be unveiled for us only in Heaven.

Mass is a personal encounter with Christ. The Catechism teaches us that the Mass “is wholly directed toward the intimate union of the faithful with Christ through communion.” The faithful refers to us – all of us, present here and throughout the universal Church. An “intimate union... with Christ” calls us to a very private encounter – despite the fact that we celebrate together, Christ is looking at and loving each one of us, *individually and tenderly*, as if it were only two of us here.

The Catechism goes on to implore us that “To respond to this invitation we must *prepare ourselves* for so great and so holy a moment.” If we knew that we had an engagement scheduled for a very special person, someone we cared about deeply and wanted to impress, we would go to great lengths to prepare –the meeting place, our clothes, what we planned to say – nothing would escape our attention. So we must prepare for Mass – for our personal encounter with God.

It is the hope and desire that these mini lessons will give us the insight to fully appreciate the amazing events that unfold before our eyes each Sunday. There is so much more to Mass than we can imagine. We will learn to experience the passion and presence of God in every Mass! We will come to see God, experience God and love God in ways we never thought possible!