

# 2020-2021 RCIA #19

2/22/20

# Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 27)

- The Mass
  - We Begin the Mass
  - What Makes a Sacrifice
  - Every Mass is Our Mass
  - The Mass Has a History
  - The Mass of the Faithful
  - Why Have Vestments?
  - The Roman Missal
  - Participating in the Mass

# The Mass

- First, it is a memorial of our Lord-“Do this in remembrance of me,” This is the living presence of Christ at the Lord’s Supper, and on Calvary and the resurrection
- Second, it is a holy or divine banquet where our souls are fed with the Body and Blood of Christ
- Third, it is a sacrifice

# The Mass (Cont)

- Sacrifices existed in antiquity with the father acting a priest
- Cain and Able
- Abraham and his family
  - Melchizedek
- Moses on Mount Sinai
  - Eldest son as priest
  - Levitical priesthood – Aaron, the brother of Moses

# The Mass (Cont)

- Sacrifice
  - A gift offered to God in order to draw closer to Him
  - Requires a victim who is the gift offered
  - Must be a part of a social group worship
  - Must be performed by a priest
  - Christ is priest and victim
- Messianic period – the perfect sacrifice
  - Today the sacrifice to be offered is worthy of God because it is His Son
  - Everything else that we have are gifts from God

# The Mass is a:

- Memorial – the Last Supper
- Divine banquet where we feed on the “body of Christ”
- Perfect holy sacrifice of the precious gift of God’s Son who acts as priest and victim
  - The human priest acts in the person of Christ, in ***persona Christi***

# The Mass (Cont)

- The four-fold purpose of the Mass:
  - Adoration
  - Thanksgiving
  - Petition
  - Reparation for sins

# The Mass (Cont)

- When we give honor to God in the Mass we receive **three fruits**:
  - The **general fruits for those present**, the Church, the Pope, the bishop, all the faithful Christians living and dead and the salvation of mankind
  - **Special fruit** of the Mass applied to person or persons **for whom the Mass is offered**
  - **Personal fruit of** the Mass is given to **the priest** who celebrates the Mass for his sanctification and the reparation for his sins



# The Mass (Cont)

- Parts of the Mass
  - Liturgy of the Word
  - Liturgy of the Eucharist
- The importance of:
  - Vestments
  - Vessels

# The Eucharist

- The greatest of the seven sacraments where the actual giver of grace himself, Jesus Christ, is present
- A very profound mystery requiring Faith
- The Eucharist (presented at the Last Supper) is discussed in:
  - Matthew 26:26-29
  - Mark 14:22-24
  - Luke 22:19-20
  - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- St. John provides the theology for the Eucharist (which is closely related to the Book of Exodus) in Jn 6

# Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 28)

- Holy Communion
  - So Close to Christ
  - Who May Receive?
  - The Eucharistic Fast
  - Practical Pointers
  - Communicants

# Holy Communion

- The Mass:
  - Provides a sacrifice which renews us via the sacrifice of the cross
  - Effects the soul by giving it grace
  - Is spiritual food which does for the soul what material food does for the body
  - Is a mystical and spiritual union
    - It produces its effect *ex opera operato* – by the sacrament itself not by any effort on our part or that of the priest

# Holy Communion (Cont)

- Provides communion with Christ and our neighbor
- Is a decision of the will, not a feeling
- Produces spiritual growth by increasing sanctifying grace
- Remits venial sins
- Lessens concupiscence
- Preserves us from Mortal sin
- Readies us for work

# Holy Communion (Cont)

- Who may receive?
  - Every baptized Catholic who has attained the age of reason
  - One who is free from Mortal sin – importance of frequent Confession
  - One who expresses the right intention in receiving it – not to please someone else
- The amount of grace we receive depends on the perfection of our disposition

# Holy Communion (Cont)

- Practical points for communicants
  - Be free of mortal sin
  - Have a right intention
  - Keep the fast (one hour before receipt of communion)
  - We should dress in accordance with the dignity of Communion
  - We may chew the host and must swallow it at some point

# Holy Communion (Cont)

- We may receive Communion twice in one day under certain circumstances
- We must receive Communion at least once a year during Easter time
- We should receive Communion often
- We should end Holy Communion with a period of thanksgiving