

THE HOLY MASS

- I) History of the Mass: **read Mark 14:22-24**
 - a. The Mass began with Jesus at the Last Supper- he was giving the Apostles his body and blood and he told them to “do this in remembrance of me”; this is what we do at every Mass
 - b. First Christians: **READ acts 2:46-47**
 - c. The Mass began with Jesus and was continued by the first Christians-
 - d. Jesus, after he died and rose from the dead, he ascended into Heaven yet remained w/ them in the Eucharist
 - e. Over the first few centuries it expanded out of people’s homes because there was no room
 - f. Early Christians were being killed because of their faith in Jesus and celebrating the Mass
 - i. "The same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross, is present and offered in an unbloody manner" in the Mass.
 - ii. *Is there anything that you can think of that you would die for?*
- II) What happens at the Mass?
 - a. Sacrament: **heaven and earth meet**- literally- yet we don’t see it w/ our naked eye
 - b. Introductory Rite:
 - i. Penitential rite (*we say we are sorry for our sins*)
 - ii. Gloria (*give God glory and praise*)
 - c. Liturgy of the Word (*we hear from the Old Testament prophets, the New Testament (St. Paul usually) & from the Gospel*)
 - i. God is made present in His word, no matter the year, there is a message for us
 - d. Liturgy of the Eucharist (*breaking of bread*)
 - i. Last supper- bread and wine are changed into Jesus’ body and blood
 - ii. *Why would Jesus want us to do this?* (Jewish belief about life in the blood)
 - e. Communion Rite- community

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING in the **GOOGLE FORM**

Read: Matthew 26: 26-30

ANSWER:

1) What is Jesus doing in this passage?

2) Why do you think Jesus would want us to eat and drink his body and blood?

At this point, Jesus knew he was going to die. He also knew that we as humans are weak and if he were to leave his apostles and mankind, there was no hope for them. The Old Testament showed over and over that we continue to fail ourselves and God. Jesus came to show us how to live in God’s Will- but without him there, what would happen? (we would go back to doing the same things)

*Jews believed that the LIFE of something was in its **blood**. Thus Jews drain the blood out of any animal they would eat because they would not want to take on the life of that animal- thus become that animal. When Jesus was at the Last Supper with his Jewish friends, he changed the bread and wine into his Body and Blood. What he was doing was **giving them himself** so that once they consumed the consecrated bread and wine, **they would actually take on him life- become him**. He would remain in them.*

3) So that was the case with the 12 Apostles- they received Jesus. How does that affect us now?

Jesus told his apostles to “do this in remembrance of me”; meaning to continue to consecrate bread and wine into Jesus’ body and blood. He gave the right/permission to only his 12 apostles who then were able to pass it on to others (bishops and priests). When they celebrate Mass, they are acting as the Person of Christ and thus by the power of the Holy Spirit are able to transform the bread and wine into Jesus’ body and blood.

4) What does that mean for us?

5) Share your thoughts/opinions/reflections

6) Does it make more sense why we as Catholics are OBLIGATED to attend Mass every Sunday? Why?