Explanation of the Mass

Introductory Rites + Liturgy of the Word + Liturgy of the Eucharist + Concluding Rite

General Structure of the Mass	Different Elements of the Mass
I. Introductory Rites It is good for us to be here! The purpose of the Introductory Rites is that the faithful coming together unite as a community and prepare themselves to listen attentively to God's word and to properly celebrate the Eucharist worthily. GIRM 46	• Entrance Song, Genuflection -Jesus present in the Tabernacle (adoration), & Veneration of the Altar. • Sign of Cross • Greeting – The Lord be with you • Rite of Sprinkling of Holy Water (or) • Penitential Rite (includes three forms) • Kyrie if not included in Penitential Rite • Gloria (Glory to God) • Collect (Opening Prayer)
Two very important elements about the Mass: • The Priest-Presider, • The Word proclaimed, Christ is present in the celebration of the Liturgy in: • Most especially in the Eucharist, and in • "The Church that prays and sings." ["For where two or three are gathered together in my name..." (Mt.18:20)] Thus, our coming together for worship is a response to God's initiative and invitation so that, when we do gather, we manifest the Body of Christ in the world.	
II. Liturgy of the Word When the Scriptures are proclaimed, God Himself is speaking to His people, and Christ, present in His own word, is proclaiming the Gospel. God's word addresses all people of every era and the homily provides a living commentary to help explain the Scriptures.	• Sacred Scripture Readings The First Reading (*Old Testament or the Acts of the Apostles*) The Responsorial Psalm The Second Reading (*New Testament Letters or the Book of Revelation*) The Gospel Acclamation The Gospel • The Homily • The Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed) • General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful) a. Needs of the Church; b. Public authorities & the salvation of the world; c. Those oppressed by any need d. Local community.
III. Liturgy of the Eucharist At the Last Supper, Christ instituted the sacrifice and paschal meal that make the sacrifice of the cross to be continuously present in the Church, when the Priest, representing Christ the Lord, carries out what the Lord did and handed over to His disciples to do in His memory. (making Him Present) The celebrant then invites the assembly: "Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours..." The new GIRM asks us to stand as the priest finishes this invitation, and we respond: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice..." GIRM 146	**A. Preparation of the Gifts (Presentation)** At the Preparation of the Gifts, the bread and the wine with water are brought to the altar, the same elements that Christ took into his hands. • Preparation of the Altar (Lord's Table) • Presentation of the Gifts • Preparation of the Bread • Preparation of the Wine (Mixing Water and Wine) • Washing of Hands **B. Prayer over the Offerings** • Invitation to Prayer • Prayer over the Gifts

General Structure of the Mass	Different Elements of the Mass
III. Liturgy of the Eucharist (cont'd) This part corresponds to the words and actions of Christ at the Last Supper. Christ took bread, and, giving thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: **"Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you."** Christ took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying: **"Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins do this in memory of me."** Through the breaking of the one bread and through communion, the faithful though they are many, receive from the one bread the Lord's Body and from the one chalice the Lord's Blood in the same way the Apostles received them from Christ's own hands.	**C. Eucharistic Prayer** The center and high point of the Mass that makes Christ present for us in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. During it, the entire assembly joins Christ in acknowledging the works of God and in offering the Sacrifice. • Preface (Thanksgiving) • Sanctus -Holy, Holy, Holy Lord • Epiclesis – implores power of the Holy Spirit • Institution Narrative and Consecration **At the Words of Institution, Christ becomes Present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.** • Mystery of Faith • Anamnesis - Command of Christ through the Apostles • Offering • Intercessions • Final Doxology **D. Communion Rite** Since the Eucharistic celebration is the paschal meal, it is right that the faithful receive the Lord's body and blood as spiritual food as He commanded. • The Lord's Prayer • Rite of Peace (Sign of Peace) • The Fraction (Breaking of the Bread) Commingling Angus Dei (Lamb of God) Personal Prayer • Holy Communion • Period of Silence or Song • Prayer after Communion
IV. Concluding Rites After the Prayer after Communion, the Priest or Deacon makes any needed announcements to the people. Then just as the people were greeted at the beginning of the Mass, so now the Priest greets the people again and blesses them. The dismissal sends the community back into the world doing good works, while praising and blessing the Lord.	• Brief announcements, as necessary; • The Priest's greeting and blessing, • The dismissal of the people by the Deacon or the Priest, so that people may go out to do good works, praising and blessing God; • The kissing of the altar by the Priest and the Deacon, followed by a profound bow to the altar by the Priest, the Deacon, and the other ministers." • Genuflection to the Tabernacle (Presence of Jesus in adoration)