

What is the Mass?

One way to think of the Mass is that it is like going to visit a friend's house. If we think of the sequence of events that happen when we go to a friend's house, we can see that there are equivalents in our Mass.

If we look at the column directly under the heading "Invited to a Friend's House" we see that when we arrive at the friend's house we will probably walk up to the front door and knock or ring the door bell. When the door is answered, you will greet each other and walk in.

If we now look at the column directly under the heading "Invited to the Lord's House" we see that at Church, this arrival is called the Introductory Rite. You can follow the next section and note that everything in the Mass setting has a similar entry to that which we experience when we visit a friend.

Jesus has told us that we are His friend John 15:12-17:

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

From the moment of our creation and throughout biblical history, God has desired to enter into an intimate communion with humanity. In fact, God, who loves us beyond comprehension, has chosen to give us His very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist. It can truly be said that the Catholic Mass is the most amazing event on earth. Do we believe and act like the Catholic Mass is the most amazing event on earth?

<u>Invited to a Friend's House</u>		<u>Invited to the Lord's House</u>	
Arrival	Knock on the door Greet each other	Introductory Rites	Entry Song, Greeting Penitential Rite, Gloria Opening Prayer
Conversation	Talk. Listen, and Play together	Liturgy of the Word	Readings Responsorial Psalm Gospel Acclamation Gospel, Homily, Creed Prayer of the Faithful
Prepare and Cook food	Set the table Wash/cook food Wash hands	Liturgy of the Eucharist	Preparation of the Gifts Eucharistic Prayer Institution Narrative and Consecration (Christ becomes Present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity)
Eat Meal	Say thanks for the food Eat and Drink Relax	Communion Rite	Lord's Prayer Sign of Peace Holy Communion Concluding Prayer
Depart for Home	Say Goodbye Leave for home	Concluding Rites	Concluding Prayer Blessing Dismissal