

RCIA Welcome to first class
Mass and Introduction to using the Missal

Opening Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, We thank you for bringing us together tonight to learn more about your ways.

Lord, as you welcome each one of us,

Grant us the grace to open our hearts and our minds so that we may become closer to you.

We ask for your help to overcome our shyness and fears of meeting new people.

We ask for your guidance and your blessings as we begin this new year of classes.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Meditation Prayer on 9/11

The prayer I am going to use today, comes from Karen Kingsbury's book "One Tuesday Morning".

Let's not move too far beyond Tuesday morning

Let's not forget all the lives that were lost

Let's not move too far beyond Tuesday morning

Remember the heroes, remember the cost.

Time has moved on as time always will do

Healing has come both to you and to me.

The towers that stood now stand only at times

A memory that's fading from all our minds.

The flag on your bumper is yellowed and frayed

It's only on Sundays we take time to pray

For families of folks who did nothing but go

To work Tuesday morning and never came home.

Still they are crying and still they are trying

To understand all that America lost

Take time to remember, there is no denying

That one Tuesday morning and all that it cost.

Smile at a stranger or do a good deed

Help out a neighbor, love someone in need

Do it to honor the women and men

Who died Tuesday morning and ever since then.

Let's not move too far beyond Tuesday morning

Let's not forget all the lives that were lost
Let's not move too far beyond Tuesday morning
Remember the heroes, remember the cost.
Lord, have mercy on us all,
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Gospel Reading for next Sunday and reflection

Welcome and introduce team and all of the students

Schedules and books were handed out and an explanation of the schedule was discussed and questions answered.

Break

Hand out current Missals

Today, as we meet for the first time, it is important to know about our most important celebration that we share as Catholics, The Mass or The Eucharist.

Let us listen to the Gospel reading about the breaking of the bread (Luke 24: 13-35)

This story is about how two disciples recognized Jesus through the breaking of the bread. Throughout the Gospels, we hear about Jesus eating and meeting with his friends. When we meet as families and friends, there is usually a meal involved. This is a sign of community and coming together to encourage and support each other. The Mass does the same thing for us. We gather for encouragement and support of each other and to worship together and thank God for his great mercy, we also share the meal of Holy Communion together.

The Church teaches that we have an obligation to attend church every Sunday. That is the 3rd Commandment – Keep holy the Sabbath Day. Also we must try and keep the day holy and not do unnecessary work.

The Mass is the most important part of our faith. Being a Christian is not a private matter, we are all called to worship with each other both publicly and communally.

To accommodate busy schedules and allow families to meet their obligation of attending Mass, most Parishes have an evening Mass on Saturday night, called the Vigil Mass, as well as several Sunday Masses. Check our Parish Bulletin or the St. Josephs Web page.

The rationale for this practice comes from the Jewish tradition that “after sundown means the next calendar day” so Mass celebrated on Saturday evening counts for the Sunday obligation.

Catholic worship involves the whole person and that is why we use different postures, such as standing, sitting, kneeling, bowing, singing, lots of listening and responding to the prayers prayed by the Priest and the Deacon. We as Catholics take an active role in the Liturgy.

We are a community that remembers Jesus, we recognize Jesus in the laughter and the voices of those around us, in all kinds of folks -- children, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens.

We look for the touch of his hands on a loaf of bread -- the Eucharist, the sound of his voice telling stories --- The Scriptures, we gather together with friends and family to celebrate and to give thanks -- the Mass.

Church is family – Eucharist is the center of our Church and rewards the seeker, feeds the hungry, encourages the lonely and depressed, lifts up our hearts, and invites us back again and again to the table of the Lord.

The Mass is divided into five rites:

Introductory Rites: Coming Together

Opening Hymn and Procession:

Penitential Rite:

Gloria:

Opening Prayer:

Liturgy of the Word: Listening

First Reading: Usually from the OT

Psalm Response:

Second Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel:

The Homily:

The Profession of Faith:

General Intercessions or Prayer of the Faithful:

Liturgy of the Eucharist: Sharing the Holy Meal

Presentation of the Gifts and Prayer over the Gifts:

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer:

Communion Rite:

The Lord's Prayer:

Sign of Peace:

Lamb of God:

Holy communion:

Reflection and Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Concluding Rites: The Going Forth
The Blessing and Dismissal:
The “Going Forth”:

Closing Prayer