



# Praying the Mass at Home: Online or on Television

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Effective Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, all Masses in the Diocese of Baton Rouge have been temporarily cancelled. This is a difficult time, but we trust that God will see us through. To aid all of our parishioners in their prayer life and to encourage hope and trust during these days, This publication is intended to assist you and your families in praying the Mass together, while not actually, physically being present in church.

## 1. ACKNOWLEDGE THE SACREDNESS OF THE MOMENT AND THE SPACE:

- a. Make arrangements in advance to be ready at the scheduled time.
- b. Choose a room in which you will experience the fewest distractions.
- c. Leave your phone in another room, in the silent mode. If you plan to use your phone to view Mass, just realize that there will be a greater potential for distractions.
- d. Light a candle. As the Christopher Fathers would say, “better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” A candle makes the statement that this is a sacred moment and a sacred space. (Just don’t forget to extinguish it after!)

## 2. PREPARATION FOR MASS:

- a. Don’t wait until the last minute to settle into your prayer space. If praying the Mass with your spouse and/or family, make sure they know in advance and are prepared to settle into the space early. You may wish to take a moment to kneel and/or just simply sit in silence.
- b. Included at the end of this brochure is a prayer, entitled, “A Prayer Before Mass.” You may wish to take a moment to pray it silently or aloud.
- c. The readings for the day are available at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Just click on the particular Sunday.

- d. Place all other electronic devices in silent mode or turn them off, including the TV, unless your TV is the device that you be using to view the Mass.

### 3. DURING MASS:

- a. Included in this brochure is an outline of the Mass, entitled, "Order of Worship." It highlights the parts that you are invited to pray verbally, aloud.
- b. When the priest or deacon pauses for the Penitential Rite ("Lord, have mercy..."), you are encouraged to silently bring to mind areas in your life where you seek God's forgiveness. Respond as you would normally do at Mass.
- c. After the First Reading, you are invited to pray aloud the Responsorial Psalm, as printed in the readings of the day, obtained at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- d. When the priest or deacon pauses after each of the intentions (Prayers of the Faithful), you are invited to respond aloud, "Lord, hear our prayer." After the final intention, he will pause for silent prayer. If you are with your spouse and/or family and friends, you may wish to voice your special intentions aloud.
- e. The Memorial Acclamation, Lord's Prayer, and Lamb of God will be recited, rather than sung. You are invited to pray them aloud.
- f. If you are with your spouse and or family and friends, you are invited to exchange a Sign of Peace at the usual point in Mass.
- g. When the priest and other ministers receive communion, you may wish to pray aloud or to yourself the prayer contained at the end of this brochure, entitled, "Most Holy Jesus."

# The Order of the Mass

## 1. Gathering in Silence Prior to Mass

## 2. Introductory Rites:

- a. Sign of the Cross
- b. Greeting
- c. Penitential Rite:

1. **All Respond:** Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy

- d. Opening Prayer (By priest. **All respond**, "AMEN!")

## 3. Liturgy of the Word:

- a. First Reading (By Lector. **All respond**, "Thanks be to God!")
- b. Responsorial Psalm (By Lector. **All respond** with response of the day.)
- c. Second Reading (By Lector. **All respond**, "Thanks be to God!")
- d. Gospel Acclamation (Sung by Cantor.)
- e. Gospel Reading
- f. Homily
- g. The Creed (Profession of Faith: **All Pray Together**)

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

h. Prayers of the Faithful (**All respond**, "Lord, hear our prayer.")

4. Liturgy of the Eucharist:

a. After the priest offers the prayers of blessing silently over the gifts of bread and wine, the following is prayed:

**Priest-** Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All Respond-** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.

b. Prayer Over the Offerings (**All Respond**, "AMEN!")

c. Preface:

**Priest-** the Lord be with you.

**All-** and with your spirit.

**Priest-** lift up your hearts.

**All-** we lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest-** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All-** it is right and just.

**(AT THE CONCLUSION, ALL PRAY):** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

d. Memorial Acclamation:

**Priest-** the mystery of faith.

**All-** We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

e. **The Communion Rite:**

The Lord's Prayer (**All Pray Together**)

Sign of Peace

The Lamb of God (**All Pray Together**):

**All-** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sing of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Grant us peace.

**Priest-**Behold the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All-** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

**Distribution of Communion-** (as the priest receives communion, you are invited to pray the prayer contained at the end of this brochure, entitled, "***Most Holy Jesus.***")

5. The Concluding Rites:

**Priest-**the Lord be with you.

**All-** and with your spirit.

**Priest-** May almighty God bless you...

**Priest or Deacon-** Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All-** Thanks be to God!

6. Closing Song

## **A PRAYER BEFORE MASS**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of God, who is Father and Creator of all,  
you give yourself to us in this sacrament  
to nourish and strengthen us for life's journey.  
We come before you now seeking  
healing, forgiveness, and strength.  
While we cannot physically receive you today,  
we know that your Spirit is upon us in this moment.  
Nourish us as we pray together now, O Lord.  
We look forward to the day when we can receive fully  
the gift of your Body and Blood in Your Most Holy Presence  
and the presence of our parish community.  
We pray especially for the sick  
and for those who care for the sick. Amen.

### **“MOST HOLY JESUS”**

*(To be prayed during the Communion Rite)*

Most Holy Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there,  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
May I never be parted from You. Amen.