



Jesus gives us the perfect model for what we are to become as disciples. He ate with sinners, cured the blind and lame, forgave the adultress, and loved the lowly as if they were his own flesh and blood. Do we love and act as Jesus did? Do we see the homeless and the hungry among us, or do we think that “those people” are only found in bigger cities and Third World countries far away? Do we notice the suffering of the person next to us, or are we too pre-occupied with our own lives?

If we are to be transformed into the body of Christ, we need to see and accept each part of that body as valuable and worthy of respect. As baptized members of the church, we each are called to build up the community, the kingdom of God. We must minister as a community, and as individuals in that community to those who need to experience God and the community we call our Church. That is our role and responsibility as the liturgical assembly called to become the body of Christ.

## Theological Reflections

- Liturgical services are not private functions, but are celebrations of the Church, which is the sacrament of unity, namely a holy people united and organized under their bishop.  
*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #26*



- (The) Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of liturgy.  
*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #14*



- The celebration of Mass, as the action of Christ and the People of God... is the center of the whole Christian life for the Church both universal and local, as well as for each of the faithful individually.  
*General Instruction #16*



Liturgical  
Renewal  
Series

### The Assembly At Mass: A Reflection



Worship Office  
Diocese of Green Bay  
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## Invitation to Participation

*“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”  
Matthew 18:20*

One of the greatest gifts of our Catholic Mass is its communal nature. The word liturgy literally means, “public worship.” We come as individuals to celebrate with other believers our faith in Jesus Christ. But that is only the beginning. During the Mass we become one community in Christ, the Body of the Risen Lord.

The purpose for the Mass is three-fold:

1. To give praise and thanks to God.
2. To grow in the holiness of God’s grace.
3. To go forth to transform the world.

It becomes our right and responsibility to proclaim the good news and to advance the kingdom of God in our day.



## How to prepare for the Mass

*God comes to us in ordinary human experiences:*

- **Greeting one another** →  
*Be concerned about people*
- **Singing** →  
*Sing with full voice*
- **Forgiving** →  
*Express sorrow and forgive*
  
- **Listening** →  
*Practice listening skills*
- **Requesting** →  
*Ask for needs respectfully*
  
- **Presenting** →  
*Give gifts with care and love*
- **Giving thanks and praise** →  
*Say thank you and compliment*
- **Praying** →  
*Reconcile and petition*
- **Sharing Peace** →  
*Live peacefully*
- **Eating and Drinking** →  
*Share meals together in family and community*
  
- **Walking the Journey of Life** →  
*Reflect on the events of life*
- **Sending Forth** →  
*Care for the earth and all God’s people*

## How to celebrate the Mass

*God comes to us in religious rituals:*

- **Gathering Rites**  
*Show Christian Hospitality*
- **Music in the Assembly**  
*Express unity and joy*
- **Penitential Rite**  
*Proclaim God’s mercy*
  
- **Liturgy of the Word**  
*Hear and respond to the Word*
- **Intercessions**  
*Express community’s needs*
  
- **Preparation of the Gifts**  
*Present the bread and wine*
- **The Eucharistic Prayer**  
*Proclaim God’s great works*
- **The Our Father**  
*Pray together in community*
- **The Sign of Peace**  
*Exchange God’s peace*
- **The Communion Rite**  
*Become the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation*
  
- **Procession**  
*Journey toward God as a parish*
- **Dismissal Rite**  
*Go forth to transform the world*