

**Faith in Five – Adults**  
**The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**  
**July 22, 2022**

1. **What is the Catholic Mass?** The Mass is the sublime, central form of prayer and worship; the source and summit of Christian life (CCC, 1324). It is a commemoration of the sacrifice of the Cross, where bread and wine are consecrated to become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At Mass, we come together as a community in praise, thanksgiving and worship of God the Father, Son and Holy spirit. Attending Sunday Mass is an obligation for Catholics.
2. **The first Mass** began at the Last Supper with Jesus and His disciples. Jesus took bread and wine, blessed it, consecrated it and gave it to His disciples. Jesus tells His disciples to make new disciples, “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matt 28:20). In 1 Corinthians 11:23, St. Peter says that he received from the Lord what he delivered to them, to celebrate the Eucharist in memory of Jesus, in the manner that He did at the Last Supper.
3. **There are 4 parts (or rites) of the Mass:** The Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist and Concluding Rite.

4. **What is the Traditional Latin Mass (TLM)?** The Traditional Latin Mass, also known as the Tridentine Mass or Traditional Rite, is the Roman Rite Mass of the Catholic Church, which appears in typical editions of the Roman Missal published from 1570 to 1962. It is also referred to as the Extraordinary form. This Mass has its roots in a missal approved by Pope Pius V in 1570, a result of the Council of Trent (hence the name “Tridentine Mass”).  


The Extraordinary Form of the Mass is celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal (and sometimes from missals issued earlier than that), which was in place before the reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council and was promulgated by Pope St. John XXIII. The TLM is highly ceremonial with chanting, and incense. *(Image source: Google)*

5. In the Extraordinary Form, there are two primary types of Masses:  
**Low Mass:** the spoken Mass. The priest with two altar servers; shorter  
**High Mass:** the “sung” Mass, more elaborate  
At a High Mass, the priest celebrating chants or sings most of the liturgical prayers, makes more frequent use of incense during the liturgy, and has a large number of altar servers.
  - **Missa Cantata:** no Deacon
  - **Missa Solemnis** (Solemn Mass): Deacon and sub-deacon assists (these may be other priests acting liturgically in these roles).

[Image Source](#)

## Mass Structure: The Traditional Latin Mass

Mass of the Catechumens  
(Liturgy of the Word)

Entrance  
Prayers  
|  
Introit  
|  
Kyrie  
|  
Gloria  
|  
Collect  
|  
Epistle  
|  
Gradual &  
Alleluia  
|  
Gospel  
|  
Credo

Mass of the Faithful  
(Liturgy of the Eucharist)

Offerory  
|  
Secret  
|  
Preface  
|  
Sanctus  
|  
Canon  
|  
Pater Noster  
|  
Agnus Dei  
|  
Communion  
|  
Postcommunion  
|  
Dismissal  
|  
Last Gospel

6. **What is the Novus Ordo Mass?** Translated from Latin as “**New Order,**” **Novus Ordo** is known as the ordinary form of the Roman Rite. This is the Mass commonly used today. It was promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969 and as such, is also referred to the **Mass of Paul VI**. Pope Paul VI's new Roman Missal (the liturgical book that contains the text and prayers of the Mass) was written to be more understandable, in order for the faithful to be able to participate in the liturgy more fully. When Pope Paul VI's new Roman Missal was released, it replaced the Traditional Latin Mass as the normal form of the Mass in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church.



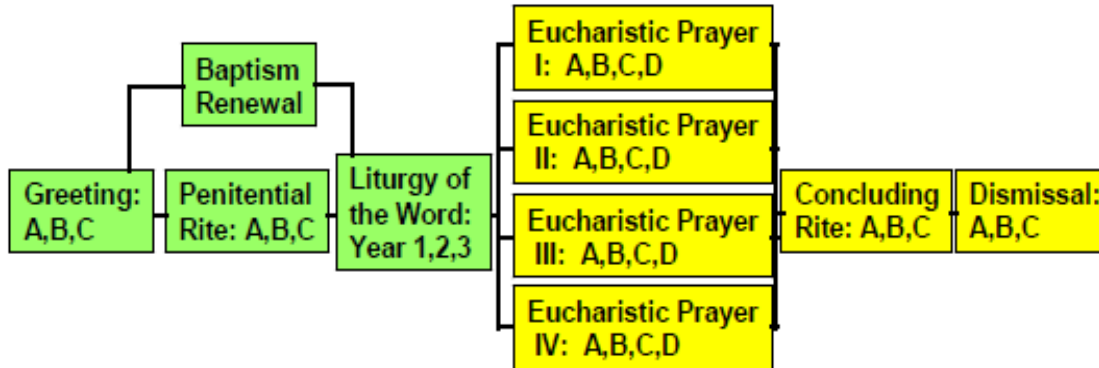
(Image Source: Google)

In the [Apostolic Constitution](#) issued by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on the *Missale Romanum*, The intention of the Second Vatican Council in the revision of the Roman Missal, was to have “both texts and rites ...be drawn up so that they express more clearly the holy things which they signify... the rite of the Mass is to be revised in such a way that the intrinsic nature and purpose of its several parts... can be more clearly manifested, and that devout and active participation by the faithful can be more easily accomplished”. Rites of the Mass are to be simplified while due care is taken to preserve their substance.

The Second Vatican Council prescribes that a more representative portion of the Holy Scriptures will be read to the people over a set cycle of years. Other elements such as the homily, ‘prayer of the faithful’ and penitential rite were restored to the earlier norms of the Holy Fathers.

[Image source](#)

## Mass Structure: *Novus Ordo Missae*



**8. Differences:** These are general differences, not hard and fast rules. In any church or parish, region or country, you may see variations in practice. *More information comparing the [Two Roman Rites](#)*

	<u>Traditional Latin Mass</u>	<u>Novus Order</u>
Age	1500 years	Since 1970; hence "New Order"
Language	Latin is spoken	Language of the area or region; the vernacular. If Latin is used it is called Latin Novus Order
Position	Priest and congregation face East (the direction of Christ's return)	Priest faces the people
Servers	Only male, as they are discerning holy vocation	Female altar servers allowed since Pope St. JP II; Bishop has final decision
Readings	One set for the whole liturgical year	Three readings on Sunday, Two readings on weekdays
Music	Singing only at entrance and exit hymns; mostly silent. Gregorian chanting	Active participation of people in song and responses.
Lay ministers	Only priest gives Holy Eucharist No lay ministers Communion rails separate heaven (altar) and earth (beyond the rail)	Allowed to be lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion No communion rail
Reception of Holy Eucharist	On the tongue, Eucharist only Kneeling or genuflecting Do not say Amen	In the hand or on the tongue Both species may be distributed (Eucharist/Cup) Standing but may genuflect or kneel
Dismissal	Last Gospel is read (John 1:1-14)	People depart after the blessing and dismissal

9. In 2007, Pope Benedict's [Summorum Pontificum](#), explained that two forms of the Mass — the Mass of Paul VI and the Tridentine Mass — mutually enrich the worship of the Latin Church. Pope Benedict wrote: "The Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Paul VI is the ordinary expression of the *lex orandi* (rule of prayer) of the Catholic Church of the Latin Rite. The Roman Missal promulgated by Saint Pius V and revised by Blessed John XXIII is nonetheless to be considered an extraordinary expression of the same *lex orandi* of the Church and duly honored for its venerable and ancient usage." For Pope Benedict, the Mass of Paul VI remains the ordinary (normative, typical) form of the celebration of Mass, while the Tridentine Mass would be generally permitted as extraordinary (exceptional). Under certain conditions, the parish priest could more broadly celebrate in the extraordinary form for those who sought it - namely, those faithful who had a great affection for the earlier liturgical form.

Pope Benedict's reform in 2007 generously allowing TLM, created divisions in the Church for those opposed to Second Vatican II. In 2021, Pope Francis expressed desire for a more ecclesial communion in the Church in His Apostolic Letter, [Traditionis Custodes](#). This document stresses that the local bishop, responsible for the liturgical life of the Church entrusted to him, has the exclusive, competent authorization to regulate liturgical celebrations and monitor the Latin Mass more closely.

10. **In 2011, a new translation of the Novus Ordo Mass** was introduced. The new translation was prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) and approved by the United States Conference of Bishops. This new translation does not alter the Novus Ordo, but rather, "tightened up some very loose translation of the Latin text, [to] restore a certain dignity to the English text of the Mass and reinstate a few lines at various points in the Mass that had simply been dropped in earlier translation from Latin to English" ([citation](#)). This was in response to Pope Benedict's desire to see the "venerable and ancient usage" of the Tradition Latin Mass mentioned in his 2007 *Summorum Pontificum*. The TLM in turn, would also gain new prayers and feast days since the last revision of the Roman Missal for the TLM in 1962. To view the changes in the parts of the people in the Order of Mass, [source](#).

10. **Both Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo are valid in the Catholic Church.** Any qualified priest can celebrate either form. No matter which liturgical celebration is preferred, we gather together as a community, coming to give thanksgiving and praise to the glory of our Triune God. We come hungry for His Word and the Eucharist. It is the same Jesus Christ we honor, truly and entirely present in the Holy Eucharist. As sharers of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are One Body (CCC, 1331).

\* **For further study:** Pope Francis' Apostolic letter, [Desiderio Desideravi](#), June 29, 2022 on the liturgical formation of the people of God.

*"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all". Ephesians 4:1-6*

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