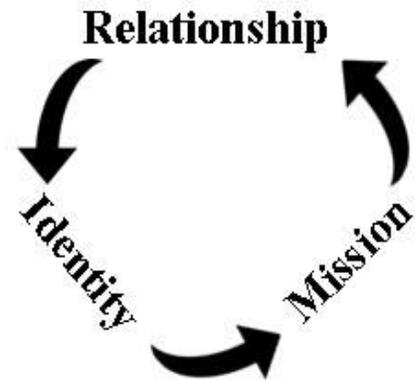


Father Chuck's Winter Teaching Series

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER: The Liturgy & the Mass– The Big Picture– January 19
(See Summary below)

Pictured at the right is a model for the Structure of our Spiritual Life. It begins with Relationship. We are created for relationship. We enter into relationship with each other as human persons, but more important is our foundational relationship with God. Rooted in our relationship with God, we learn who we are, and find our Identity. As Vat II says, Jesus Christ reveals man to himself! (Gaudium et Spes n. 22) In baptism we are adopted sons and daughters of God and this is our truest identity. Our Mission flows out of who we are.



In this past session, we began to reflect on how the Mass and the Sacraments enhance our relationship with God and empower us for mission in the world.

WHAT IS LITURGY?

“The word liturgy originally meant a ‘public work’ or a ‘service in the name of/on behalf of the people.’ In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in ‘the work of God.’ Through the liturgy Christ, our redeemer and high priest, continues the work of our redemption in, with and through his Church.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1069)

The Mass is the greatest form of prayer that we have. And when we participate in it, we participate in ‘the work of God.’ We participate in the work of salvation through Holy Mass, and the celebration of all the sacraments!

The Mass is a special Liturgy in the Church, but many things are liturgy. The Rites of the Church, funerals, confession, baptism, a communion service. It is the people of God participating in formal acts of the Church.

OVER FOR MORE→

SAVE THE DATES– for these next presentations at the Family Center
Monday, February 20: The Church at Prayer– What We Say and Do at Mass
Monday, March 27: Living the Sacraments Everyday!

Father Chuck's Winter Teaching Series

WHAT HAPPENS AT MASS?

We prepare our hearts to enter into this liturgy in the celebration of the Mass.

- We gather as the People of God
- We pray, worship
- We worship with bodily expressions: speaking, singing, standing, kneeling, bowing, genuflecting
- We are present, not only receive grace, but also to give ourselves to God

After having gathered, prepared ourselves for prayer, and singing, the priest invites all to pray, and gathers all our prayers in the Collect Prayer as we begin the Liturgy of the Word. We listen to the stories of how God has worked in the past knowing that God can act similarly in our lives today. The homily opens the scriptures to us and then with hearts burning within, we declare our faith through the Creed.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is presented. Through the love of God, the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus is offered to us and we celebrate and are transformed in this union with God. Then we are sent out on mission.

But something is required of us in the celebration of the Mass. The Church calls all the faithful to “full, active and conscious” participation in the Mass. We can all grow in our awareness of what is taking place in the Mass and our conscious involvement in it. We may be use to a more passive participation, but active engagement is the goal.

So, next time you go to Mass, or celebrate any liturgy in the Church, be mindful of the need to be engaged in “full, active and conscious” participation. And may our worship of God in this parish grow ever more faithful and rich as we worship our great God!

***HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US NEXT MONTH FOR AN OTHER EXCITING
SESSION WITH FATHER CHUCK!***

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