**Grade 6, 7, 8 Make-Up**

**Sunday, January 7/Monday, January 8**

Please submit thoughtful answers to the numbered items below ***in an email*** to

[rburbrink@saint-max.org](mailto:rburbrink@saint-max.org) within 2 weeks of the missed class.

**Mass 101**

**Mass as Church’s Thanksgiving Day**

1. Reflect on Thanksgiving Day in your family. Who’s there? What do you do? What do you eat?

**WHAT IS A RITUAL?**

1. Define ritual.
2. List 3 rituals you perform each day when getting ready for school…brushing you teeth would be an example.

**WHAT DO RITUALS DO? WHY ARE RITUALS IMPORTANT?**

* Rituals give us comfort – we know what to expect, we’ve done it before
* Rituals allow everyone to participate because we all know what happens next
* They remind us of all the times we’ve done the same thing before and what it meant and felt then
* They mark moments in our lives by common experiences (birthdays, graduations, weddings, etc.)

**CHARACTERISTICS OF RITUAL**

All rituals have some basic characteristics which we can observe and define:

* Words
* Clothing
* Objects/Symbols
* Actions/Gestures
* Roles (People)
* Food
* Music

For example: Thanksgiving Day

* Words: “Happy Thanksgiving!”, praying before dinner
* Clothing: getting dressed up, football jerseys?, dressing like pilgrims/native Americans?
* Objects/Symbols: Turkeys, cornucopia, mums, corn cobs, etc.
* Actions/Gestures: greeting relatives, hugs and kisses, eating a meal together
* Roles (People): the host, the cook, those who serve, those make desert
* Food: Turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, etc.
* Music: “We Gather Together”, “Now Thank We All Our God”, ??

1. Choose a wedding, birthday party, graduation or sporting event and give examples of the basic characteristics for that event:
   1. Words
   2. Clothing
   3. Objects/Symbols
   4. Actions/Gestures
   5. Roles (People)
   6. Food
   7. Music

**MASS AS RITUAL**

Mass is a ritual event. What ritual characteristics does it have? Read below….

* Words: Prayers, readings, “The Lord be with you”, “Amen”, “Thanks be to God”
* Clothing: vestments of ministers, getting dressed up for Sunday
* Objects/Symbols: altar, cross, presider’s chair, bread & wine, candles, font
* Actions/Gestures: making the sign of the cross, bowing heads, crossing our lips at the Gospel, standing, sitting, kneeling
* Roles (People): assembly, priest, deacon, servers, lector, psalmist/cantor, choir, Communion minister, usher
* Food: Body and Blood of Christ in the form of bread & wine
* Music: psalms, hymns, songs, acclamations

**WHY DOES MASS FOLLOW A RITUAL PATTERN?**

* It has developed over time, but is essentially the same as in the earliest days: we gather together, we hear God’s Word proclaimed, we take bread and wine, bless and thank God, break the bread, share the bread and wine that we believe is the Body and Blood of Jesus, and then go forth to “love and serve the Lord.”
* The Eucharist has had the same pattern since the first Christians celebrated the Eucharist after Jesus’ Resurrection.
* Doing the same pattern connects us with those who have gone before us.
* Doing the same pattern connects us with others throughout the world.
* Symbols (cross, altar, font) mean something different in different contexts:
  + A table in my living room with magazines on it is very different from the table in the church upon which we put bread and wine and give praise and thanks to God over.
  + A cross can mean many things: hospital, “x marks the spot” for treasure, a marking on a football play…in a ritual context of the liturgy, the cross has its true meaning...and we understand it properly in the ritual context of the liturgy.
* Even though the exact order and the exact words are not the same, the overall “shape” of the Mass remains the same.
* Knowing what comes next at Mass allows us to enter into our own private prayer a little bit, and join our personal prayers to those of the community.
  + If we’re always “guessing what comes next”, it is hard to focus on prayer.
* We hear the same scriptures over and over again, so that over a lifetime, we truly understand them. Plus, they mean different things to us at each stage of our life.
* Mass is mostly the same in all circumstances: using the same symbols, food, and clothing, as well as some of the same words and music, helps us remember that our whole life is in God.
  + A funeral Mass and Easter Sunday are much the same in many ways, because our death and rising to new life are a part of Christ’s death and rising to new life. Using similar ritual characteristics (same paschal candle, same color vestments, same font, same music, etc.) helps remind us.
* We cannot always be changing how we “do” Mass because people aren’t able to participate in it…we must know what to expect so that we can, in some ways, turn our brain off and let our heart converse with God.

**Christ’s Presence in the Mass**

* Key teaching of Vatican II is the manifold presence of Christ in the liturgy (Word, Sacrament, Ministers, Assembly).
* Mass affirms and celebrates these modes of presence…Mass is when we encounter Christ truly present in all of these ways. The shape of the liturgy helps this unfold.

**Introductory Rites**

* Just as we greet one another as we gather for our Thanksgiving Day meal, the Introductory Rites serve to make a community of those gathered from various places.
* The Introductory Rites serve to remind us who we are, WHOSE we are, to unite us in sung and spoken prayer, to prepare us for the Liturgy.
* Gathering begins at home…the entrance procession begins in our home preparations and journey to church.
* Entering through the doors of the church
* Blessing ourselves with water…baptismal reminder…Mass is the gathering of the baptized [even if you don’t receive Communion!]
* Silent prayer and contemplation…transition from what was happening before
* Singing together – awareness of Christ’s presence in our assembled community
* Entrance procession of ministers – Christ’s presence in the ministers, especially the presiding bishop or priest
* Sign of the cross…affirmation of Trinity and cruciform life
* Greeting…brings about communion between priest and people
* Act of Penitence…acknowledgment of our brokenness and our sinfulness, but more importantly God’s mercy and love in Jesus Christ.
* (Eastertide) Sprinkling Rite…affirmation of baptismal identity.
* Gloria…song of praise to the Trinity…three parts
* Collect…high point of the Introductory Rites, serves to gather everyone’s prayer and give it voice. One voice speaking all responding is distinct characteristic of the Roman Rite (vs. everyone reciting together)

**Liturgy of the Word**

* Encounter with Christ truly present in the Word proclaimed.
  + Jesus Christ is the Word of God…*logos…*John 1 (Christmas Day).
  + We are a people of the Word…not just “of the book”, but of the *Word*.
  + The sacred scriptures are a way for us to encounter Christ the Word-made-Flesh.
  + It’s not as if Jesus couldn’t make it so he asked someone to read this letter in his absence…not, when the scriptures are read, it’s Christ who truly speaks!
  + The scriptures were meant to be proclaimed in the community’s prayer, not originally intended for private reading…it’s only in late history (with advent of printing press) that anyone viewed the reading of scriptures as a particularly individual/private thing.
* In the Liturgy of the Word, Christ speaks and we listen
* First Reading…from Old Testament, or during Easter, from Acts of the Apostles…related to the Gospel
* Responsorial Psalm…responds to First Reading, responsorial in form…meditation upon the Word
* Second Reading…from an epistle…letters to a community of believers…
* Gospel Acclamation…affirmation of importance of the Gospel…Gospel book from altar…singing, incense, procession, candles, reserved to deacon, etc.
* Gospel…highpoint of Liturgy of the Word…three synoptics, John comes in an out for seasons
* Homily…Christ continues to speak through the leader of the community…what is the Word saying to me today, here and now? How does that Word lead us to the table of the Eucharist?
* Profession of Faith…creed based on scripture and tradition, helps form identity, remnant of baptismal practices…Nicene during most, Apostles for Lent and Easter
* Universal Prayer…not just petitions, but intentions for the community’s prayer during the Eucharist.

**Liturgy of the Eucharist: Gifts Given and Received**

1. Think about last Christmas…what was the best gift you received? What was the best gift you gave?
2. Think about a recent or coming birthday for you or someone close to you…what do you hope to give or receive and to/from whom?
3. Who in your family (extended or immediate) gives the best gifts and why?
4. Do we always return a gift with another gift? What happens if we do? What happens if we don’t? What if we can’t?
5. What gifts can children give their parents?
6. What is the greatest gift that God has given you?

What makes it so great?

**The Liturgy of the Eucharist is our “thank you card” to God!**

* In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we celebrate all of God’s gifts to us, but especially the gift of Jesus, who becomes human so that humans may become divine!
* We celebrate Jesus’ birth, ministry and teaching, his suffering, death, rising, return to His Father, and giving us His Spirit to sustain us.
* We offer back to God the gifts he first gave us.
  + It’s always funny when children use their parents’ money to buy the parents a gift…the child offers back to the parent what the parent gave them anyway. (“Santa’s Secret Shop” concept)
  + This is like God. We offer back to God what He first gave us. We take simple gifts of bread and wine – fruit of the earth and work of human hands – and ask God to transform them into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
  + We take the gifts of creation God first gave us and give them back in thanks.
  + It’s the effort that counts! Our sincerity…our enthusiasm…our remembering to say “thanks”!

**The Eucharistic Prayer is the central prayer of thanksgiving for the Christian community.**

* In it, the Church says “thank you” to God for all that God has done for us, especially in Jesus Christ.
* We give thanks for everything God has done, but in particular the dying and rising of Christ.
* We “bless the food” just as Jesus did at the Last Supper, and share a special sacred meal just as he commanded us to do in his memory.
* We offer our thanks for his death on the cross, and for his rising from the dead, which opens for us the way to eternal life.

**Preface**

**The preface serves as the bridge from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.**

* In the preface, the motive for our thanksgiving this particular day or occasion is stated.
* The scope of God’s goodness and all his marvelous deeds are seen through the dying and rising of Jesus Christ.
* We focus on one particular aspect of Jesus that corresponds to the season or feast, or perhaps is quite general during Ordinary Time.
* The preface transitions us from the story of God’s salvation celebrated in the Liturgy of the Word, to the great prayer of thanksgiving, our response.

**DIALOGUE:** The priest greets us, invites us to lift up our hearts, because it is right and just that we would give thanks to God. Right away, it’s clear what this prayer is about.

**FOCUS:** The preface then reminds us of God’s goodness, and how it is our duty and salvation to give thanks. The preface then describes some aspect of salvation history, some event in the life of Christ, which may connect to the liturgical day or the scriptures in the Liturgy of the Word.

**INVITATION:** The preface concludes with the invitation to join the angels & saints in the hymn of praise “Holy, holy…”

The preface sometimes gets overlooked because it is somewhat “transitional”…it is between posture changes…it precedes a musical element…it changes nearly every Sunday…

But it’s an important text because it helps us as a community find a common motive for thanksgiving. We can each be thankful for anything God has done, but the preface proposes something our whole community will be thankful for today.

1. **Write your own preface…***reflect upon the following prompts to write your own preface.*
   * We call God many names…what name for God would you use today?
   * For what aspect of God’s goodness am I most grateful? What must I thank God for above all today? What words would I use?
   * What is something happening in my life that I can see in the life of Christ?

**The Eucharistic Prayer Examined**

Thanksgiving (Dialogue & Preface) – Sanctus – Epiclesis – Institution Narrative & Consecration – Memorial – Offering – Intercessions – Doxology & Conclusion

**Communion Rite: God’s “You’re Welcome!”**

* If the Eucharistic Prayer is our “thank-you card”, Communion is God’s “you’re welcome”.
* In preparation for the reception of Holy Communion, the Lord’s Prayer is prayed…best prayer we know, given by Jesus, includes petitions for daily bread, mutual forgiveness, and unity.
* Then the Rite of Peace; not a simple greeting or “little hug”, but rather meant to be an expression of the unity and forgiveness prayed for in the Lord’s Prayer. By 1500, the exchange of a sign of peace among the people had disappeared from the Mass. Vatican II reinstated it as optional (greeting is mandatory).
* Fraction with its litany expresses Jesus’ body torn on the cross, suffering, just as bread is ripped apart, broken. Lamb of God is a title used for Jesus by John the Baptist, found in the *Gloria*, and echoes the heavenly banquet (Revelation).
* Communion: a shared experience, personal…communal not individual. Made communal by singing, by sharing a common cup, by walking together.