THE HOLY MASS

Our Catholic Church:

A "house of prayer," but Jesus, reserved in the tabernacle, makes it home. The gift of Catholicism is that you can go to any Catholic Church throughout the world and not feel out of place. Even when you go to a new parish, surrounded by total strangers, with a priest you've never seen and songs you have never sung, you feel at home.

There is the familiarity of where to find the tabernacle, when to sit, stand and kneel, where to put your hand when you walk through the door, searching for the holy water font, looking for the candles burning in front of a statue of Our Lady. The Catholic Mass has been celebrated in the same structure every day for over 2,000 years and the structure has never changed.

Each Holy Mass begins with Introductory rites - including a seeking of God's mercy to forgive us our sins. Then we listen to God's living Word in the scripture and Gospel readings. We listen to the Priest's homily helping us to live the life of Jesus, and we pray our intentions in the prayers of the faithful. We celebrate Jesus' great love for us and sacrifice for us on the cross. We receive Eucharist, which unites us with Him and each other -- making up the body of Christ. Mass ends with sending us out to make disciples of all nations by sharing His love.

This familiarity brings us peace, comfort and a sense of belonging. Belonging to a church allows us to both receive and give love. How do you keep your children faithful to the Catholic faith? Introduce them to the Home church truly is. Make church their home. Bring them to Mass. Your family will be nourished with His word and Body, and you will witness your children's hearts blossom in His Love. This unity with His mystical Body, the Church, leads to a peace this culture will never impart and with self-esteem the Holy Spirit grows, as is perfectly designed for each child.

In this way, you prepare your child for a lifelong encounter with Jesus in Eucharist. They will never be far from this Home, this refuge of peace and love.

<u>Inside Our Sacred Space</u> Tour of the Church

Worthy is the Lamb A moment of Pause

"And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—

7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56: 6-7