**The Eucharistic Celebration – The Mass**

Entrance Procession

1. **The Entrance Rites**
   1. The Mass begins with the Sign of the Cross
   2. The Penitential Rite (Lord have mercy)
   3. The Gloria (not during Advent or Lent)
   4. The Opening Prayer (Collect)
2. **The Liturgy of the Word**
   1. First Reading – Generally take from the Old Testament except during the Easter Season when this reading is taken from The Acts of the Apostles.
   2. Responsorial Psalm – Called as such as it responds to the first reading
   3. Second Reading – Generally take from the letters or epistles of St. Paul or elsewhere in the New Testament.
   4. Gospel Acclamation – Gives the link between the First Reading and the Gospels
   5. The Gospel\*
   6. Homily – Explains the readings and applies them to our lives today.
   7. The Nicene Creed. The Apostles Creed is used during the Easter Season.
   8. The Universal Prayer
3. **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**
   1. The Offertory
   2. Prayer Over the Gifts
   3. The Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy)
   4. Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer
   5. The Eucharistic Prayer (To the Father, though the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Two essential elements are remembering – anamnesis – the Last Supper and the invocation of the Holy Spirit – epiclesis.)
   6. The Great Amen (The crescendo)
4. **The Communion Rite**
   1. The Lord’s Prayer
   2. The Sign of Peace
   3. Priest’s communion (the priest must receive)
   4. Communion of the faithful (the faithful receive only if Catholic and in a state of grace)
   5. Prayer After Communion
5. **Concluding Rites**
   1. Announcements
   2. Final Blessing
   3. Dismissal (Mass ends)
6. **Recessional** (Everyone remains present until the end of the recessional hymn.)

\*The Sunday readings follows a three-year cycle. Year A from Matthew, Year B from Mark, Year C from Luke. We are currently in Year A. The Gospel of John is used on occasion during all three years when appropriate. Daily Mass reading follows a two-year cycle. We are currently in Cycle 2.

If you attend Mass every day for three years you will have the most of the Bible read to you.