Order of Worship

Saint Mary the Virgin
Anglican Rite Catholic Church

ORDER OF CHORAL EUCHARIST

PREPARATION

The quiet moments before the Mass are a time to prepare for the offering of our Lives to God, and for His coming to us in the form of the Blessed Sacrament.

PRIVATE PRAYERS BEFORE MASS

In the Name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O great and good God, I have come into Thy presence to share in offering to Thee the great Sacrifice of Thy Blessed Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, (and to receive the Holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of the same Jesus Christ), in remembrance of His life, death, and Passion, and in thanksgiving for all Thy blessings bestowed upon Thy whole Church and on me a most unworthy sinner. I desire to offer, (and to receive), with all the love and contrition of which I am capable, in conformity with those sacred intentions wherewith our Saviour instituted and our Holy Mother the Church ever offers it. I wish, then, to offer, (and to receive), it:

1. For Thy greater glory;
2. For the continual remembrance of the Sacrifice of Christ;
3. To give Thee thanks for all the Blessings Thou hast bestowed, especially...;
4. To ask Thy help in any matter I have in hand, especially...;
5. To ask Thee to bless all my friends and relations, especially...;
6. For the dead, especially...;

Bless the Priest who is to preside at this oblation. Bless all the people who are here to participate in this glorious action, and all that would like to be here. Convert all sinners. Heal the anguish of the world. And have mercy upon all the faithful departed those sacred intentions wherewith our Saviour instituted and our Holy Mother the Church ever offers it. I wish, then, to offer, (and to receive), it.

O God, accept all my prayers during this Holy service of our bounden duty, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen

THE ORDER OF CHORAL EUCHARIST

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

See the bulletin for number

THE PREPARATION BY PRIEST AND SERVERS AT THE ALTAR

The Priest comes before the Altar and begins the Mass by saying the Preparation with the Servers. When Mass is sung, this preparation is usually said while the people are singing the Processional Hymn.

Priest: In the Name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Server: Amen.

Priest: I will go unto the Altar of God.

Server: Even unto the God of my joy and gladness.

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Server: Who hath made Heaven and Earth.

CONFITEOR

Bowing profoundly, the Priest makes his confession

Priest: I CONFESS to Almighty God, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Micheal the Archangel, to blessed John Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, to all the Saints, and to thee, brethren, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault. Therefore I beg blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, all the Saints, and you brethren, to pray to the Lord our God for me.

Server: Almighty God have mercy upon thee, forgive thee thy sins, and bring thee to everlasting life.

Priest: Amen.

Then the Servers repeat the Confession

Server: I CONFESS to Almighty God, to Blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John Baptist, to the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, to all the Saints, and to thee, brethren, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault. Therefore I beg blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John Baptist, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, all the Saints, and you brethren, to pray to the Lord our God for me.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy upon thee, forgive thee thy sins, and bring thee to everlasting life.

Server: Amen.

Priest: Wilt Thou not turn again and quicken us, O God?

Server: That thy people may rejoice in Thee.

Priest: Show us thy mercy, O Lord.

Server: And grant us thy salvation.

Priest: Lord, hear my prayer.

Server: And let my cry come unto thee.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Remain standing

Priest: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name. Through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE INTROIT

This is an Antiphon and the beginning of a Psalm which is either said by the Priest or is sung by a Choir. It changes every Sunday.

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Priest: HEAR what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

THE KYRIE ELEISON

In order that this great cry for Gods blessing may be said as one united prayer, in the same tongue throughout Christendom, it is often said or sung in the New Testament language.

English — Greek

Lord, have mercy upon us. — Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. — Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. — Kyrie eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us. — Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us. — Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us. — Christe eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. — Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. — Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. — Kyrie eleison.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Remain standing

NOTE: The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent and Lent.

Priest: Glory be to God on high,

See Mass music or Hymnal number in bulletin.

Priest and People: And on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory ✠ of God the Father. Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OR COLLECTS OF THE DAY

See bulletin BCP page reference to follow the reading.

A Collect is a short prayer.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON APPOINTED FOR THE DAY

See bulletin to follow the reading.

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

"Te Deum" p. 10 BCP, see back insert.

THE CANTICLE APPOINTED FOR THE DAY

All stand.

THE EPISTLE

See bulletin BCP page reference to follow the reading.

All sit.

Priest or Lay Reader: The Epistle is written in the ___ Chapter of ___, beginning at the ___ Verse.

This is a passage of Scripture appointed for the day.

The Epistle ended, he shall say,

Priest or Lay Reader: Here endeth the Epistle.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL

All stand.

The priest sings or reads or the Choir sings the GRADUAL, the TRACT, or the ALLELUIA with the VERSE or SEQUENCE as the day or season requires. The people should join is singing the ALLELUIAS.

THE GOSPEL

See bulletin or BCP page reference to follow the reading.

Remain standing.

Priest or Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest or Deacon: The Holy Gospel is Written in the ___ Chapter of ___, beginning at the ___ Verse.

People: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

The Priest or Deacon sings or reads the portion of the Gospel appointed for the day.

AFTER THE GOSPEL

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

Remain standing.

Priest: I believe in one God...

Priest and People: THE Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,

Here genuflect

AND WAS INCARNATE BY THE HOLY GHOST OF THE VIRGIN MARY, AND WAS MADE MAN:

Here rise

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into Heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life ✠ of the world to come.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All sit. See the bulletin.

SERMON HYMN

All stand. See the bulletin.

THE SERMON

All sit.

Before the sermon:

Priest: In the Name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

People: Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

Remain standing.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us pray.

The Offertory Prayer may be said or sung by the Priest or sung by a Choir.

OFFERTORY HYMN OR OFFERTORY ANTHEM

See the bulletin for number. Sung by a Choir.

During the time that the alms basin is passed for our offering the Priest is making the offerings of Bread and Wine at the Altar, and he also offers himself and all the people to God.

DOXOLOGY

Priest and People: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye Heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Priest then announces the Intentions for which the Holy Sacrifice is especially offered at this time, after which he says:

Priest: Brethren, pray that this, my sacrifice and yours, may be acceptable unto God the Father Almighty.

People: THE Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name; both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Priest: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church.

THE GREAT INTERCESSION

Stand or kneel.

Priest: ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept (alms and) oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Here are named those needing our prayers.

And we also bless ✠ thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear: beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Amen.

THE EXHORTATION

To all who come to receive the Holy Communion:

Deacon or Priest: YE who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Kneel.

Priest and People: ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

The Priest, (Or Bishop if present), turns to the People and says:

Priest: ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon ✠ and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Priest: HEAR what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. St. Matthew 11:28.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. St. John 3:16.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15.

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. 1 St. John 2:1-2.

The following may be said or sung.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Priest: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

The Priest continues with the Proper Preface according to the Season or the Day, (after which will follow).

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

THE SANCTUS AND THE BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT

Remain kneeling.

Choir and People: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed ✠ is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

THE CANON OF THE MASS

This includes the consecration of the Bread and Wine, oblation, and the invocation of the Holy Spirit.

Priest: ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; And did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again:

FOR in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

When the Priest Lifts the Sacred Host, look up and quietly say

✠ My Lord and my God!

LIKEWISE, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for

THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU, AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS; DO THIS, AS OFT AS YE SHALL DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

When the Priest lifts the cup, look up and quietly say

✠ My Lord and my God!

The Priest continues:

WHEREFORE, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

AND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our Sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy

Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

AND here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

REMEMBER, Lord, also the souls of thy servants and handmaidens, which are gone before us with the mark of faith, and rest in the sleep of peace, especially...

Here the faithful departed are remembered before God by name.

The Priest continues:

WE beseech thee, O Lord, that unto them, and unto all such as rest in Christ, thou wilt grant a place of refreshing, of light, and of peace.

AND although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray.

And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, We are bold to say:

OUR FATHER

1940 Hymnal, Page number 722.

Priest and People: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Priest continues silently:

DELIVER us, we beseech thee, O Lord, from all evils, past, present, and to come: and at the intercession of the blessed and glorious Ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with thy blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and with Andrew and with all thy Saints, favourably grant peace in our time, that by the help of thy mercy we may be kept free from sin, and safe from all disquietude. Through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God,

(Sung)

... World without end.

People: Amen.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

THE AGNUS DEI

See the bulletin for number.

Cantor, Choir and People: Oh Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: Have mercy upon us.

Oh Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: Have mercy upon us.

Oh Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: Grant us Thy peace.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Priest: WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

People: Amen.

THE COMMUNION VERSE

The Priest may say or a Choir may sing the Communion Verse before or after the People's Communion.

The Priest receives the Holy Communion, and then he delivers to the other Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, if any be present. He then elevates the Cup and Host, faces the People, and says:

Priest: BEHOLD the Lamb of God; Behold Him ✠ that taketh away the sins of the world.

Priest and People: LORD, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

LORD, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

LORD, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

Here, those who have been Confirmed by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession or are desirous and ready to be Confirmed (BCP page 299), and who have prepared to receive the Blessed Sacrament, come forward reverently and kneel at the Altar rail.

While all are receiving Holy Communion, the Choir may sing a Motet, or a Communion Hymn may be sung. See the bulletin.

THE THANKSGIVING

Kneel.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People: ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The Post Communion Prayer may be said or sung.

Priest: Let us pray.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest or Deacon: Depart in peace.

Or... (In both Lent and Advent)

Priest or Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PONTIFICAL BLESSING

(If the Bishop be present :)

Bishop: Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

People: From this time forth for evermore.

Bishop: Our help is in the Name ✠ of the Lord.

People: Who hath made Heaven and Earth.

Bishop or Priest: THE Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

THE LAST GOSPEL

All Stand.

On certain Sundays the Last Gospel may be said. (St. John 1:1 or other as appointed for the day.)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: ✠ The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Priest: IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made: in him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world: He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Here genuflect

AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US,

Here rise

(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

People: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

See the bulletin for number.

When the Archbishop or the Diocesan Bishop is present, you may kneel as he passes leaving the church, and he will give you a blessing.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

We use our bodies and all our senses as we worship God, proclaim His Kingdom, and give Him thanks and praise. Some of those aspects of Catholic worship in the Mass are:

The Liturgical Year:

The Church observes eight seasons based on the life and teachings of Jesus. Within those seasons we observe many special days which commemorate special events in the life of our Lord, the lives of His Mother and the Saints, and events in the life of the Church.

Colours:

The liturgical colours are used appropriately for the commemoration.

Purple is used for penitential observance such as Advent and Lent.

White (and Gold) is used for joyful Celebrations, especially for the Incarnation and Resurrection.

Green, the color associated with nature, is used for times we are learning about the nature of God, His revelation of Himself, and His plan for His creation.

Red is used for the Martyrs and for the Holy Spirit as it is the color of blood and of fire.

Blue is sometimes used for Mary, the mother of our Lord and may be used for Lent.

Black is used only on Good Friday and for Requiem Masses, in sorrow that sin has brought death into the world.

Bowing:

We bow our heads whenever we say the Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father, and to the Son...). Also, we always bow our heads at the name of Jesus.

Genuflecting:

To kneel down on the right knee is called a genuflection. We do this whenever we pass before our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament. At the profession of our belief in the Incarnation during the Creed, we genuflect, humbling ourselves in thanksgiving and in recognition of the greatest of all acts of humility.

Incense:

The use of incense is recorded throughout Holy Scriptures, always signifying the near presence of God. It symbolizes the sanctification of our offering to God and the raising up of our prayers. The incense is blessed during The Introit, and the Altar is censed at that time.

"From the rising... and in every place Incense shall be offered unto my Name..." Malachi I: 11.

"Let my prayer be set forth in Thy sight as the Incense..." Psalm 141, vs. 2.

Holy Water:

We are sprinkled with Holy Water to remind us of our Baptism and that we should always be giving thanks for this sacrament whereby we have been made members of the Body of Christ.

The Sign of the Cross:

There are many times when Catholic Christians make the sign of the Cross. The times it is most commonly done during the Mass are marked with a ✠.

The Bells:

The bells are usually rung at moments of greatest sacredness and importance. This is a call for every bit of our attention in body, mind, and spirit.

Candles:

Candles symbolize the presence of the Lord, the Light in the midst of darkness, the Light of the World. The two Eucharistic candles represent our Lord's two natures, Divine and Human. Other candles are used for special occasions, always with symbolic meanings.

Music:

We raise our voices in worship together. Singing has always been considered by the Church to be the unified expression of the Faithful.

Te Deum Laudamus.

WE praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud; the Heavens, and all the Powers therein;
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;
The Father, of an infinite Majesty;
Thine adorable, true, and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.
THOU art the King of Glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints, in glory everlasting.
O LORD, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.
Govern them, and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name ever, world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.