



THE MASS IS A SACRIFICE

Parents/guardians, the greatest sacrifice that you will make this week is bringing your children to Mass.

The Mass is the memorial of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus gave his life to free us from sin and death. Through this supreme act of love to the Father, he redeemed us and opened for us the path to heaven.

We commonly use the term memory or memorial to recall something that happened in the past and is long gone. When we speak of the Mass as the "memorial" of Jesus' death, we are not simply referring to a past event that happened thousands of years ago. At Mass, we are celebrating the great event of our salvation. Jesus' death and resurrection is made present to us now, during this Mass. In the sacrifice of the Mass the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the Cross offers himself in an unbloody manner on the altars of the Church.

During the Mass, the priest prays that our sacrifices will be united with the total offering and sacrifice of Christ. As a result, our lives, our joys and sufferings, our play and work, our prayer and deeds acquire a new value.

They are now one with the sacrifice of Jesus which not only benefits others but also ourselves. The willingness to sacrifice is important in our own lives. In a self-centered culture, people are taught to extend themselves only for something in return. Jesus freely sacrificed his life in love for all. When we follow his example, we are freed from the prison of selfishness and experience the love and joy of selfless sacrifice.

Through the Holy Spirit, the Mass unites us with others throughout the world who celebrate Mass and with the saints and angels in heaven. The sacrifice of the Mass is also offered for those who have died, so that they enter the glory of heaven. At Mass, we adore and thank God, we pray for our needs, we gain pardon for sins, and receive the promise of eternal life.

For Discussion

Can you name a person, other than your parents/guardians who has made a special sacrifice for you?

February 5, 2012 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 1:29-39	What are the quiet or "deserted" places where you like to pray?
February 12, 2012 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 1:40-45	In what ways has Jesus healed you?
February 19, 2012 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mark 2:1-12	Who in my life has shown me the love and forgiveness of Jesus?
February 26, 2012 First Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9:8-15	Besides the rainbow, what "signs" remind me of God's love?