

Understanding the Mass

The Opening Rite

Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.

*Today our topic is the **Opening Rite**.*

Last week, we learned that the first part of the Mass is the **Opening Rite**, also known as the Introductory Rite. As we begin Mass, the Opening Rite brings us together, and helps us prepare to listen to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist.

The parts of the Opening Rite (from the Latin *ritus*, meaning "religious") are:

THE ENTRY - often including a hymn (song we sing at Mass) or antiphon (response), the entrance joins us all together and prepares us for what is to come.

THE GREETING - this is when the priest makes the Sign of the Cross and greets everybody, to which we all reply together, showing that the Lord is with us and makes us one.

THE PENITENTIAL RITE - when we tell God and each other that we are sorry for our sins.

THE GLORIA - on Sundays and special feast days, we pray the Gloria to praise God for all the wonderful things that He has done for us.

THE OPENING PRAYER - the priest joins all our prayers together in the Opening Prayer of the Mass.

We are going to learn more about the Opening Rite of Mass over the next few weeks.

True or false? Circle what you think!

The Opening Rite is the first part of the Mass.

TRUE FALSE

The word "rite" comes from Ancient Greek.

TRUE FALSE

The Sign of Peace is part of the Opening Rite.

TRUE FALSE

