

Your Guide to the Traditional Latin Mass

Welcome!

If you are new to the Latin Mass, you may notice the following:

Language: The priest prays most of the Mass in Latin, the official language of the Roman Catholic Church. A red booklet missal is provided at St. Peter's, which contains the prayers of the Mass in both Latin (on the left page) and in English (on the right page) to assist you as you pray the Mass. In addition, a sheet will be distributed each Sunday that gives all the changeable parts of the Mass for that particular Sunday, including the Scripture readings (the Epistle & the Gospel) of the day as well as the Proper (changeable) prayers of the Mass. The priest will always preach his sermon in English.

Priest faces the altar: The priest faces the tabernacle and the altar as he offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Some may, at first, see this as the priest turning his back on the people. Instead, however, the priest and congregation face the Altar **together** and unite their prayers during Mass.

Crucifix: The crucifix above the altar reminds us that the sacrifice of the cross and the holy sacrifice of the Mass are one and the same sacrifice.

Silence: People are very quiet as they come into the chapel before Mass, to show reverence to the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and to prepare themselves for the Mass. There are also periods of silence during the Canon of the Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer) while the priest is praying very quietly at the Altar.

Following along with the Mass

As mentioned above, there are **red booklet missals** that are distributed each Sunday for those who wish to follow along with the text of most of the Mass. Many of the faithful also purchase more complete missals that contain all the texts for the Mass, including the Epistles and Gospels for the entire year.

What am I supposed to do? Standing, sitting, kneeling: Follow the instructions in the red booklet missal for High Mass when the Mass is **chanted** (sung), and follow the instructions for Low Mass when the Mass is **spoken** (recited).

When all else fails, simply follow those around you!