

(Rose Marie)

Review of first two sessions– Gather – Church Tour –

Overview of Liturgy of the Word

Follows ...the Gathering, and Penitential Rites

It is one of the **major parts of the Mass** ... mostly time for listening

Reading from the **Word of God** ... the bible ... holy Scriptures

Don't read from an actual bible but from a **Lectionary**

Lectionary

is a special book with the Readings from the bible arranged for each day of the week and for Sunday readings.

Scripture passages arranged according to themes... being a disciple, the miracles of Jesus, marriage, eucharist... or specially chosen for the different seasons in the church year... Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter...

Time to slow down – listen- reflect on our ancestors experience of God

Historical accounts

Bible – library of books, letters, poems, stories

Lectionary Scriptures for each day are laid out in this way:

1. **First Reading** – usually taken from the **Old Testament** – tells the story of the Covenant God made with the Jewish people before Jesus's time.

2. **Psalm** – songs of praise – written by King David to tell God of his faith and love

3. **Second Reading** – usually from **New Testament** – tells the story of the Covenant God made with all people through his son, Jesus Christ

4. **Gospel Acclamation** – express our joy by singing Alleluia – which means “May God be praised and thanked.” We stand to show our attentiveness and eagerness to hear about Jesus as told in the Gospels.

5. **Gospel** – contain real stories about Jesus –

– **the word “gospel”** means “good news”. Jesus himself is the Good News of God's love.

- **The Gospels tell Jesus' life story** ... teachings, miracles, how he was accepted by some and rejected by others, ... contains the stories of his suffering, death and resurrection.

– **there are four gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**

- Each of the Gospel tell the story of Christ's Life, but each tell it in a slightly different way... like 4 different angles of looking at the same thing.

Activity (Fr. Jim)

The Word of God ... the Scriptures ... the stories of the bible..

- **Help us to come to get to know Jesus**
- When we proclaim God's Word we believe that God is with us in another special way... we speak of God's Word as "alive" ... because God's Word touches our hearts, ... they teach us how to live lives of Love ... following the way of Jesus.

You already know many stories from the Word of God... from learning at school, attending Mass, parents reading bible stories with you at home.

Take a moment now to begin thinking quietly about the stories from the bible that you remember.

– **Small Groups**

- write down as many scriptures as you can remember
- _ pick one of the stories you remember and tell us what it teaches us about how we should live our lives

Sharing Time from the groups – report – 10 – 15 minutes

6. Homily (Marilyn)

- just like you told us about a scripture passage and what you thought it means...
- In the Homily part of the Mass...the priest helps us to understand the teachings and life of Jesus that we have heard about in the scriptures
- how we can live a better life following the Way of Jesus
- in other words how we can put into action what we have heard

7. Creed (Marilyn)

- After the Homily, we pause a couple of minutes so that we can think about what the priest has told us about the scriptures...

... Then we all stand to say "The CREED"

So ...What is the Creed?

- there are many different religions in our world

- each religion has a certain number of things that they believe about God

When we make a list of our beliefs we call this a CREED ... it is like a real short version of what we believe about God.

Our Roman Catholic Church also has Made a CREED

At Mass we join together in reciting / saying our Creed together

– 5 major aspects of our belief.

+ who God is as... Father Son and Holy Spirit

+ Jesus was born, suffered, died and rose from the dead

+ that Jesus forgives our sins

+ that we are part of the family of God, members living and dead

+ that we have the hope of living forever in God

8. **Prayers of the Faithful** – handout prepared (Rose Marie) lead into the activity

– petitions– asking- praise-thanks – we pray for another person or situation – the world – the country – our community – the suffering – the sick – those who have died – personal intentions

Activity – break into small groups – compose individual prayers – intentions

- Choose 1 intention and a presenter

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Liturgy Component:

Instructions as to how it will happen upstairs...

Proceed upstairs to the church proper : cross, candles, Book of Gospels, books, lectionaries, bibles

Have books ready at the back of the church to be picked up for the procession behind the cross and candles

Procession to the altar

Bibles and various books placed on the altar then go to the pews

Sing the Eucharist Song – We Come to the Table

Father may choose to read a passage of scripture – his choosing

Luke chapter 1:1-4 Good News Translation (GNT)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Dear Theophilus: Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us. ²They wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning and who proclaimed the message.³And so, Your Excellency, because I have carefully studied all these matters from their beginning, I thought it would be good to write an orderly account for you. ⁴I do this so that you will know the full truth about everything which you have been taught.

The Gospel of the Lord... Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the Faithful – each presenter will come forward to the ambo and read their intention

Conclude with Our Father

Proceed back downstairs

Gather back downstairs for the Valentines Day Draw

**The following is education regarding the WORD OF GOD at Mass
taken from: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/liturgy/>**

Questions about the Scriptures used during Mass

Do we read from the Bible at Mass?

Readings from Scripture are part of every Mass. At least two readings, one always from the Gospels, (3 on Sundays and solemnities) make up the Liturgy of the Word. In addition, a psalm or canticle is sung.

These readings are typically read from a Lectionary, not a Bible, though the Lectionary is taken from the Bible.

What's the difference between a Bible and a Lectionary?

A Lectionary is composed of the readings and the responsorial psalm assigned for each Mass of the year (Sundays, weekdays, and special occasions). **The readings are divided by the day or the theme** (baptism, marriage, vocations, etc.) rather than according to the books of the Bible. Introductions and conclusions have been added to each reading. **Not all of the Bible is included in the Lectionary.**

Individual readings in the Lectionary are called pericopes, from a Greek word meaning a "section" or "cutting." Because the Mass readings are only portions of a book or chapter, introductory phrases, called incipits, are often added to begin the Lectionary reading, for example, "In those days," "Jesus said to his disciples," etc.

How can anyone own the copyright on the Bible? Isn't it free to everyone?

No one owns the copyright on the Bible itself. Rather, the copyright is held on particular translations or editions of the Bible. The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) owns the copyright on the New American Bible translation. Some versions of the Bible, such as the King James Version (not the New King James Version) are in the public domain.

The copyright allows the owner to protect the integrity of the text so that individuals may not introduce changes without permission. Royalty fees earned by licensing the text to companies who publish and sell Bibles help to provide funds for Scripture scholarship and other educational needs.

How is the Lectionary arranged?

The Lectionary is arranged in two cycles, one for Sundays and one for weekdays.

The Sunday cycle is divided into three years, labeled A, B, and C. 2008 was Year A. 2009 was Year B, 2010 is Year C, etc. In Year A, we read mostly from the Gospel of Matthew. In Year B, we read the Gospel of Mark and chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. In Year C, we read the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season in all three years. The first reading, usually from the Old Testament, reflects important themes from the Gospel reading. The second reading is usually from one of the epistles, a letter written to an early church community. These letters are read semi-continuously. Each Sunday, we pick up close to where we left off the Sunday before, though some passages are never read.

The weekday cycle is divided into two years, Year I and Year II. Year I is read in odd-numbered years (2009, 2011, etc.) and Year II is used in even-numbered years (2010, 2012, etc.) The Gospels for both years are the same. During the year, the Gospels are read semi-continuously, beginning with Mark, then moving on to Matthew and Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season. For Advent, Christmas, and Lent, readings are chosen that are appropriate to the season. The first reading on weekdays may be taken from the Old or the New Testament. Typically, a single book is read semi-continuously (i.e., some passages are not read) until it is finished and then a new book is started.

The year of the cycle does not change on January 1, but on the First Sunday of Advent (usually late November) which is the beginning of the liturgical year.

In addition to the Sunday and weekday cycles, the Lectionary provides readings for feasts of the saints, for common celebrations such as Marian feasts, for ritual Masses (weddings, funerals, etc.), for votive Masses, and for various needs. These readings have been selected to reflect the themes of these celebrations.