

The Eucharist, Work of Our Redemption: An Exploration of the Mass
Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

The Church at Prayer: The Introductory Rites

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- Before examining the specific elements of the Introductory Rites (the last two sections of the presentation), it is helpful to consider carefully the “who” of the liturgy (the first two sections of the presentation).
- The Introductory Rites are an important element of the whole Eucharistic Rite and require our careful participation, which sets the “tone” for the whole liturgy. They have the character of beginning, introduction, preparation (GIRM no. 46)

1. BODY GATHERED AROUND CHRIST THE HEAD

- Church made visible (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, for example nos. 2, 5, 7; hereafter SC)
- Community worships
 - Hospitality of self
 - Inclusive
 - At home
- Surrender of self to the Mystery being celebrated

2. MINISTRY OF THE ASSEMBLY

- To *be* the Body of Christ
- To participate (see SC No. 14)
 - Actively → Engagement: sit, stand, [kneel], sing, respond
 - Consciously → Surrender: yes
 - Fully → Reception of God’s grace: transformation
- To surrender self to the Mystery being celebrated

3. ELEMENTS OF THE INTRODUCTORY RITES (see GIRM nos. 46-54)

- Entrance Procession (GIRM no. 47) and chant (GIRM no. 48)
 - Response to God’s call
 - Begins when members of the Body of Christ leave home
 - Priest presider is last one to gather (with some exceptions)
 - Four options for music (GIRM no. 48)
 - Antiphon from *Roman Missal* or antiphon and Psalm from *Graduale Romanum*
 - Antiphon and psalm from the *Graduale Simplex* for liturgical time

- A chant from another approved collection of Psalms and antiphons, either in responsorial or metrical form
- Another approved liturgical chant suited to the liturgical action, day, or time of year
- In the United States, a suitable hymn may be sung (*Sing to the Lord*, no. 144b)

- Priest [and Deacon(s)] bow, kiss, [incense] the altar (GIRM no. 49)

- Greeting

- Sign of the Cross

- Greeting (GIRM no. 50)

- Signifies Presence of the Lord

- Mystery of Church gathered is made manifest

- “Apostolic” greeting: three choices (*Roman Missal* no. 2)

- “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (cf. 2 Cor 13:13)
- “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (cf. Gal 1:3)
- “The Lord be with you.” (cf. Ruth 2:4; Jdg 6:12; Lk 1:28)
- People’s response: “And with your spirit.” (cf. Gal 6:18)

- After the greeting, there may be an introduction to the Mass of the day

- Penitential Act *or* Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water (GIRM no. 51)
- *Kyrie* (if not included in Penitential Act; cf. GIRM no. 52)
- *Gloria* (GIRM no. 53)
- Collect: Invitation, silent prayer, Collect prayer, Amen (GIRM No. 54)

4. FLOW OF THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Key Elements

- Procession
- Veneration of Altar
- Greeting
- Opening Prayer

- Movement

- Gathering
- In Christ’s Presence
- Exchange between the Body of Christ/Congregation and Christ the Head/Presider
- Conclusion of Introductory Rites in prayer sets tone for the whole liturgy

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