

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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Continuing with the description and explanation of the Traditional Latin Mass, my aim is to inform you of the differences compared to what one encounters in the Novus Ordo. Moving systematically through the Mass will hopefully help you follow along, if you choose to attend the Latin Mass.

The Structure of the Mass

- The first part of the Mass is called the “Mass of the Catechumens,” as it was customary in the Early Church to have those converting to Catholicism attend the first part, but then dismiss them before the Eucharistic Sacrifice. This was reserved for those fully initiated.
 - After the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar, the priest (having arrived at the altar) says the *Introit*. This is a Psalm Antiphon (the Novus Ordo retained this, but its not always said), which is commonly replaced with a entrance hymn, and if not, called the entrance antiphon.
 - The priest then says the Kyrie (Lord have mercy), as the servers respond. Unlike the Novus Ordo where its 3 sets of 2, the TLM uses 3 sets of 3
 - *Kyrie Eleison, K, K,Christe Eleison, C, C,Kyrie Eleison, K, K*
 - The priest then says the Gloria. He begins to chant it if it’s a Sung Mass and after he intones it, the choir takes over as he says the rest in a low voice
 - After the Gloria, the priest prays the Collect (Opening Prayer as in the Novus Ordo)
 - Next, the priest reads the Epistle (First Reading).
 - Then he recites the Gradual which is a refrain between Psalm verses
 - It’s called the Gradual, because in ages past it was chanted as the priest “gradually” moved up the steps of the ambo (lectern).
 - In a Sung Mass, the choir chants it while the priest says it quietly
 - Although it’s an option in the Novus Ordo, it’s almost always replaced with the Responsorial Psalm.
 - Next, the priest proclaims the Gospel
 - After the Gospel, the priest will usually read the Epistle and Gospel again in English, then offer a homily
 - For daily Mass, the readings can be said in English the first time
 - As in the Novus Ordo, after the homily the priest begins the Creed. Just as with the Gloria, if it’s a Sung Mass the priest only intones it, then recited the rest
- What follows is the “Mass of the Faithful.” There is are Prayers of the Faithful as in the Novus Ordo; although, in the first couple hundred years there were petitions, which were said towards the beginning of Mass.
 - The priest, beginning with *Dominus Vobiscum* (The Lord be with you) towards the people, turns back to the altar and says the Offertory antiphon (sung by the choir in a Sung Mass)
 - He then says a prayer for the offering of the bread and a prayer for the offering of the chalice (prayer with the mixing of water with the wine and washing of the priest’s hands occurs too, as in the Novus Ordo)