

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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Last week we got as far as the conclusion of the Offertory. This week we will pick up with the Consecration of the Eucharist which begins with the priest turning towards the people and saying, “*Orate fratres*” (Pray brethren.) This is how the priest begins the Preface in the Novus Ordo as well, but in the Latin Mass he turns back to the altar after saying, *orate fratres*, and says the rest of the prayer quietly. This prayer is called the *Secret* and in a Sung Mass the choir chants this prayer.

Mass of the Faithful (Liturgy of the Eucharist) Cont.

- After the *Secret* the priest begins the Preface, which is technically part of the Eucharistic Prayer as it is in the Novus Ordo.
 - Like in the Novus Ordo, the Preface concludes with the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)
- The priest then prays the Roman Canon. This is the same as Eucharistic Prayer One in the Novus Ordo, but the Latin Mass uses only this and always includes the two lists of Saints, (the Communicantes and the Commemoration of the Dead)
 - The Roman Canon (EP 1) was the only Eucharistic Prayer used from 400 AD to 1970. It received very few and minor changes along the way, basically untouched; and it’s what most of the Church’s Saints heard or said in their lifetime
- Next is Communion, which includes the following:
 - *Pater Noster* (Our Father)
 - The *Libera* prayer which is similar to the prayer after the Our Father in the Novus Ordo
 - The *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) and three extra prayers not found in the Novus Ordo
 - The *Domine non sum dignus*, (Lord I am not worthy that you should enter...)
 - The priest prays this for himself, later the congregation prays it together before they receive Holy Communion
 - The priest then receives Communion
- After reception of Holy Communion is the Thanksgiving
 - The priest prays the Communion Antiphon (quietly if the choir chanted it)
 - This too is prescribed in the Novus Ordo but is often replaced with the Communion hymn
 - Next the priest (beginning with *Dominus Vobiscum*) prays the Prayer after Communion as he does in the Novus Ordo
- The priest concludes with the *Ite Missa Est* (The Mass is ended) and blesses the people
 - Lastly, after the blessing, the priest prays the “Last Gospel,” which is the Prologue to the Gospel of John
 - This is read at the end of every Mass (The Dominicans started this custom)
 - John’s Prologue is like a summary of the Gospel. It tells of the Incarnation, rejection of Christ, and our redemption
 - The priest has just made God present again on the altar at Mass, under the appearance of bread and wine as nourishment for souls
 - The Prologue is a fitting capstone to the “Mass of the Ages”