

LITURGY BYTES

Why Come to Mass?



Generally, people like to get together with one another. We seem to be relational and want to share our lives with one another. It is part of our human instinct. We come together for sporting events, concerts, rallies, and school events. However, you might be thinking, what does all of this have to do with Sunday Mass?

Even though some of the above events are not the same as what we do on Sunday, there are similarities. As Christians we identify who we are and believe that this identity is significant; we share certain values and become more committed when we regularly gather together. On Sunday at Mass, we find a sense of unity and support, and we celebrate that in a special way. We remember all that God has done and is doing for us in Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Keep in mind the kind of remembering we do on Sunday is not simply recalling past events, but rather it is a remembering that calls us to attend to God's activity in our lives at the present moment. God knows our basic instinct of sharing our lives, belonging to something and being in relationship to others firsthand. We are made in God's image, a God who is relational, who shares life with us and invites us to share that with Him. It is no wonder that God would call us together as a community to give thanks and praise. The Mass teaches us a lot about how to live in a right relationship with God, others, and all of creation.

As the Lenten season is fast approaching, perhaps it is a good time to focus our attention on the beauty of the Mass when you gather each Sunday. Go out on a limb and invite a friend or family member who does not attend Mass anymore or infrequently to accompany you to Mass one Sunday. Try to help them embrace its beauty and the special gift of our Lord in Holy Communion. Over a cup of coffee in the diner, see what this experience meant and gently encourage them to come again. For those we love and cherish, we need to help them realize what they are missing and how the faith community misses them too!

Have a blessed, healthy, and joy-filled week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*