



ARTICLE 3

GATHER

DECEMBER 2021 • SAINT PATRICK CHURCH, CARLISLE PA • FATHER DON

Gather, worship, celebration, memorial, these are all words to describe the Mass. We have taken the last two articles to look at what our mission is as a church, what is at the heart of who we are as a church family. This article will focus on why we gather which is the first part of our purpose as a church. "We GATHER to worship God through The Word and The Eucharist." I know some of you are thinking that we gather to receive communion, we gather because it is an obligation, we gather to listen to the priest's homily. There is so much more to why we gather and do what we do that it might take a couple articles to really see why we do what we do.

"It is in these churches that the Church celebrates public worship to the glory of the Holy Trinity, hears the word of God and sings his praise, lifts up her prayer, and offers the sacrifice of Christ sacramentally present in the midst of the assembly." (CCC 1199) These words give us the sense as to what we are called together for in the Mass. But what is at the center of the Mass. It is Christ not just in Word but also in body, blood, soul and divinity. This is what we are truly receiving at Mass through the liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He speaks to us through the Word, and we receive Him in the Eucharist so that we are impelled to go out into our neighborhoods and communities to share His love, His light with others. This is our time not only to thank God for all he has given us but to also pray for others and for ourselves. It is a place for us to spend time with our Father as a family and praise him for all that he does in our lives and through creation.

Why is it so important for me to come every week to Mass? Think of it as an opportunity not an obligation. An opportunity to spend time with God, to thank Him and pray to Him for all that is going on in your life.

It is a time to spend with your church family that you do not often get to see. It is a time for me to see my church family and thank them for all they do for the church.

I want our gatherings to be a place where we find peace, joy, courage, understanding and all the things the Holy Spirit has to offer us as He continues to work in us to give us the strength to make it through out our week and our life! It should also be a place where we can welcome new faces to let them experience where our light comes from in our lives! This strength, this light comes from the Eucharist. Like Superman receives his strength from the sun in the sky. We receive our strength to live a life full of the light of Christ from the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ in the Eucharist!

Here are some lyrics to close with from the hymn, The Church's One Foundation: "The church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is His new creation, by water and the Word; from heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride; with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died." These words show us how much Christ loves us and what he did to get us on the right path. A path of love, a path that helps show us what it takes to love our neighbor and love Him! These words show Jesus that we recognize not only what he did for us but what we strive to do for Him! We strive for holiness, so as to be with Him in Heaven and it is Jesus, we must thank for opening those gates for us. May we GATHER as a family to continue to thank Him and to continue to work our way to heaven!

Until then, reflect on these things.....

- Why do I come to church? What is the purpose of gathering?
- Why do I seek to be holy and how is Mass a part of that?
- What should my takeaway from experiencing Mass?
- What does the Eucharist mean to me?

**NEXT ARTICLE:
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