**Liturgy Matters Lesson #3 - “Sunday Mass as the Model Liturgy”**

**By Bishop Chad Zielinski**

Thank you for joining me as we continue our lessons on “What Happens at Mass.”

As we begin our journey through the Mass, it is important to recognize the realization of an “ideal Mass,” one in which all the elements of the liturgy come together. We cannot get tangled up in questions of a practical nature concerning how well or how poorly a particular celebration happens. If we have had bad experiences with liturgical celebrations, where the ritual is not as envisioned by the Church, we should set that aside. Each time we gather for Mass we should imagine the liturgy as it is meant to be celebrated, with every person and every part working at the highest level.

So, we must imagine a “large” liturgy, that is, a Sunday or even a major feast, where many people have assembled for the celebration. From the beginning, Sunday has been the preeminent day for Christians to gather together in prayer since on Sunday, Christ rose from the dead, and every Sunday celebrates his Resurrection with the celebration of the Eucharist. The Sunday celebration inevitably marks the whole day, making a day completely given over to prayer, rest in God, the joy of our communion with one another, to the joy of our salvation. Keeping this in mind, we must stop to consider our attitude after Mass when we leave the church. Do we continue to greet everyone with this joy? Are we patient and even charitable in the parking lot as we leave? Do we offer the day for the glory of God? This is the ideal, and we should protect it from cultural encroachments and lifestyles that undermine such a sense of Sunday. Having roughly established a mindset for entering the mystery of the Mass, we will begin to examine the role of the bishop or priest and then move on to the rite itself.

May God continue to strengthen us as we grow closer to Him through our understanding and participation in the Holy Mass. Let us keep one another in prayer. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Chad Zielinski