

Catechism on the Liturgy II, 9

High Mass

Refers to a Mass where the celebrant sings the prayers of the Mass. A Sung Mass refers to a priest singing the Epistle and Gospel; a Solemn High Mass has a Deacon and a Subdeacon; A Solemn High Pontifical Mass has a bishop or an abbot as its celebrant; A Solemn High Mass of a Pope has the Holy Father as the celebrant.

Holocaust

From the Greek meaning “wholly burned,” it refers to animal sacrifice in ancient Jewish ritual. Only the blood and certain parts of the animal were offered to God; the rest was divided among the priest and faithful who had offered it. The whole large host is consumed by the priest, as is all the precious blood at the altar, which is the liturgical or sacramental fulfillment of the ancient holocaust.

Holy Oils

Used at the celebration of sacraments, and for the consecration of persons or things, they are consecrated by the bishop once a year at the Mass of Holy Chrism. There are three: The Oil of the Catechumens, Holy Chrism, and the Oil of the Sick. They are kept locked in the ambry in the sanctuary, though priests have the oil of the sick near them or in the car for so as to anoint in case of an emergency.

Holy Week

The holiest week of the year, commencing with Palm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday. It is the last week of Lent, immediately before Easter.

Homily

This is a kind of preaching which explicates a particular text of Sacred Scripture. A sermon is a preaching on some subject and not necessarily and

explanation of Scripture. A *ferverino* is a short sermon which aims to stir up the fervor of the faithful.

Honorarium

This is another word for Mass stipend, or some gift to the priest for services rendered.

Humeral Veil

This is a veil which is put over the shoulders of the sacred minister in order to hold a sacred vessel during the liturgy, such as the subdeacon holding the paten in a Solemn High Mass or the priest holding the monstrance during Benediction.

Hymn

This is a non-Biblical song for the praise of God, usually in metric or strophic form. Vernacular hymns were introduced in the 13c.

Kiss

Liturgical kisses are used especially with the bishop at the Mass. When an object is handed to him, it is kissed first, then the back of the hand of the bishop; when the bishop hands something back, the opposite protocol is used. This reminds us that the bishop can give blessings, but he can also take things away such as privileges. The action reminds us of the words, “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1.21) Liturgical kisses may also be used with the priest, but are done in a lesser manner, since the power of the priest to discipline or dispense is far more limited than that of the bishop.

Liber Usualis

“The book of use,” it has all the prayers of the Roman Rite, plus all the official music, which is Gregorian and Ambrosian chant. This is like the missal

used by the faithful to assist at Mass, but the so called “hand missal” only has a portion of the chant of the Church.

Liturgical Colors

There are several colors used for the liturgy, and each symbolizes something different: Black for mourning, green for hope, red for fire and for blood, rose for the flowering of the next liturgical season, violet for penance, affliction, and humiliation, and white, for joy and purity.

Liturgy

Two Greek words, *laos* (the people, from which comes the word “laity”) and *ergon*, or work. The work of the people is usually given as the meaning of liturgy. But if it is the work of the people, it is the whole people (*ecclesia*), stem and root, manifested by this person here. The work done is the work of Christ, and not a deed or set of practices undertaken by the assembly. Christ is the head of the Church, and it is His work which is the essence of the liturgy.

Low Mass

This refers to the celebration of Holy Mass without music, and only with the spoken word of the priest. There can be music at a Low Mass, but the priest does not sing. The Low Mass is derived from and is oriented toward and takes its meaning from the solemn forms of the celebration of the Mass.

Maniple

Originally an ornate Roman handkerchief, later used to give or receive something precious (like the paten) in the Mass. When not in use it was folded over the arm. Now it is like a small stole which hangs over the left wrist, symbolic of good works and holy labor, and it is used only for the Mass, and no other sacrament.