

## Mass Parts 1/52: *Preparation at Home*



This weekend marks the first in a series on the Mass, each week breaking down the parts of the Mass to help us understand it better and help us worship better. I used to find the Mass boring, until I heard a talk once that the Mass is like a Byzantine Icon. While it may not be immediately, visually beautiful, it is intellectually beautiful. The more we understand it, the more beautiful it becomes.

So actually our preparation for Mass begins at home before we even come to the Church. Our mental and spiritual preparation influences our attitude during the Mass. What time is everyone getting up before Mass? Did everyone get breakfast early enough so that they can all still observe the one hour Eucharistic fast? Do you have to fight with the kids every weekend to go to Mass?

There are also the standard, weekly questions on the mental checklist: Did he go back to bed? Where are her good, church pants? Where is the other shoe? Did you write the check? Where is the envelope?

Are you able to come early enough so that you are not rushed? I understand with babies and small children. The fact that you were able to make it at all is impressive. But if not, why the consistent lateness? If you were late for work, what would happen? If you were late for soccer practice...

How are you dressed for church? Does it show you are treating this as a special occasion? Your Sunday Best? If you are an usher, lector, or Eucharistic Minister, did you dress up? You are performing a public ministry. If a server, did you at least wear nice shoes? If you are a lector, did you actually practice the readings out loud?

At the end of a long week, I hope that everyone feels the need for church. This is why we come. The Eucharist is the source of strength and grace for the rest of the week. And by the end of the week, we feel the need to be recharged again.

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Kopp