



Mass Parts 51/52: *Out on the Street*

Mass is over. We have rejoiced. We have fulfilled our Sunday obligation.

How long does this feeling last? How long does the holiness last? We are out on the street and getting into our cars. Are we keeping up the holy at least this long? We hope that we can stay in the grace of the Eucharist until we come back next Sunday. But have the kids already started fighting about breakfast? How are we treating other drivers? Screaming at the guy parked in front of you as you leave church kind of destroys that peace and tranquility.

We should also think about how we are spending the rest of the day. I know everyone is busy. I know it is a struggle at times to squeeze in time for Mass. I am thankful for those that take the time. Yet also consider, if you are able, the Third Commandment: "Keep holy the Sabbath." Christianity has moved the Sabbath observe to Sunday from the Jewish Saturdays. Part of that observance is to go to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. Part of that as well is to think about how you spend the rest of that day. I am not pointing to a legalistic interpretation of how much work one can do or even siding with those that want all stores to close again on Sundays. But is it truly a day of praise and family? Are you able to make time to visit family and friends?

However we can keep it in mind, the Eucharistic is about a way of life, not just an hour on Sunday. The graces received from the Mass transform each of us into Jesus and get us through the week and through life. How quickly does that holiness or understanding last as we leave the Church? Keep doing the best you can, change your schedule as you can, and return back to the Mass as soon as you can.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Eucharist as Source and Summit