J.M.J.

A.M.D.G.

Bread of Life

**Lesson 4: The Sacrifice of the Mass**

**Opening Prayer**

**LCE page #31-36**

**Part I—The Mass and Calvary**

* 7 Last Words (Archbishop Fulton Sheen)
	+ (1) “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”
	+ (2) “Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”
	+ (3) “Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.”
	+ (4) “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”
	+ (5) “I thirst.”
	+ (6) “It is finished.”
	+ (7) “Into Your hands, I commend My spirit.”
* MASS
	+ **Confiteor** *(I confess to Almighty God…)*
	+ **Kyrie** *(Lord have mercy…Christ have mercy…Lord have mercy)*
	+ **CONNECT TO #1—Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.**
	+ **Offertory**—we offer what is broken. The gifts are brought up, and we offer the gift of ourselves to the Father.
	+ **CONNECT TO #2—Today you will be with Me in Paradise.**
	+ **Sanctus** *(Holy, Holy, Holy)*
	+ **CONNECT TO #3—Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.**
		- Our Mother Mary intercedes for us, and helps us to be holy.
	+ **Consecration**
		- Central part of the Mass
		- Where we commemorate the death of Our Lord.
	+ **CONNECT TO #4—My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?**
		- Psalm 22
		- On the cross, Jesus is understanding the condition of the human heart. He understands our misery, our feeling of separation from God.
	+ **Agnus Dei** *(Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world…)*
	+ **CONNECT TO #5—I thirst**
		- He thirsts for union: for us to be in union with Him, and He with us.
	+ **Communion**
		- We receive the Resurrected Lord
		- \*\*The Mass is Passion, Death, and Resurrection all in one\*\*
	+ **Dismissal**
	+ **CONNECT TO #6—It is finished**
	+ *Only in Latin Mass*—**Last Gospel**
	+ **CONNECT TO #7—Father, into your hands I commend My spirit**

**Part II—The Mass and Oblation**

* We can offer our Mass for someone’s intentions, lifting them up in prayer.
	+ Central part of the Mass—there is an oblation, an offering. We offer Christ to the Father, but we also offer ourselves and our own intentions.
	+ We offer what we see as valuable. We want to give a good gift.
	+ What we offer at Mass is of ultimate and infinite value: JESUS CHRIST.
	+ We give the gift of ourselves to God. And we should nothing back.
		- Our children should see themselves as a gift, and that they can offer themselves as a gift with Jesus to the Father.

**What is the Mass? (4 Things)**

**(1) Representation**

* + Jesus Christ presented/offered Himself to the Father on the cross
	+ Christ is truly and really present now on the altar and so He can freely offer Himself to the Father. He can no longer die, because He now has a glorified body. But the essence of His oblation remains the same.
* **Where is the Body of Christ?**
	+ *In Heaven*
	+ *In the tabernacle*
* At the Mass, we experience the presentation of Christ to the Father.
	+ Same offering, but different manner.
	+ **Cross—bloody sacrifice**
	+ **Mass—unbloody sacrifice**
* **(2) Memorial**
	+ Do this is *memory* of Me.
		- The events we are remembering and representing (the mystical presence of these events) are the Last Supper, Calvary, and the Resurrection.
	+ We are **present at** these events and **participating in** them!
* **(3) Sacred Banquet**
* Mass is a communal meal, we are gathered around a table, united in the Body of Christ.
	+ We call this **Communion**. Your children are preparing for **First Communion.**
* **(4) Application of the Merits of Calvary**
	+ *Calvary—*side of Christ is pierced on the cross
		- If we pierce a bag of gold, all the treasure would spill out.
		- Our salvation, the payment for our sins, spill out of His side as blood and water flow out. We should run to gather those merits at the Mass.
	+ *John 1:1-14*
		- Jesus is the source of all grace and truth.
		- At Mass, we apply those graces and merits to our life.
* The Mass is ALL FOUR of these!
	+ **Representation**
	+ **Memorial**
	+ **Sacred Banquet**
	+ **Application**
* **Our participation in the Mass (and thus the Last Supper, Calvary, and the Resurrection)**
	+ Different levels of intimacy, so some get more out of it than others.
	+ In the Mass, we are called to have real, actual, and active participation. We are not just spectators! We are there to offer, not just watch!
* **Sense of the Offerings (The Seven Elevations)**
* Continuous motion in the Mass: Everything is **offered up** to the Father, and it is all **presented back** to us.
	+ We come in with a sense of humility, knowing that we need something.
	+ Then we make an offering of ourselves to the Father, along with Christ.
	+ The offering is acceptable to the Father, and then He offers His Son back to us.
	+ We receive the Son, and are sent out to bring Him to the world.
* **(Elevation 1 and 2) The Bread and the Wine**
* **(Elevation 3 and 4) After Consecrations**
* **(Elevation 5) Doxology**
* **(Elevation 6) The Agnus Dei**
* **(Elevation 7) Communion**
* **So is the Mass just about #7 (Communion)?**
	+ No! There is a lot more to the Mass then just communion.
	+ The oblation, the offering of the gift of ourselves and the intentions of others, are all so pleasing to the Father, and acceptable through the merits of Jesus Christ.