



Mass Observation Challenge

At the next **Mass** you attend, **observe** and **answer** the following questions.
Be sure not to allow this challenge to distract you from the readings, homily, Eucharist, etc.
Let it help you further **enter into the gift of Mass**.

What are the first things the priest & deacon do after the **Entrance Procession** when they stand behind the altar?

They kiss the altar in an act of veneration. (respect and reverence). The altar has “been set apart for a specific purpose and kissing the altar recognizes its privileged role and relation to the divine sacrifice of Jesus Christ.” (Aleteia)

*** At the start of Mass, make the Sign of the Cross with careful attention and reverence. ***

What motion do you do during the **Penitential Act: “I Confess”** to emphasize how sorry you are?

Hit your left chest over your heart 3 times in sorrow to emphasize to Jesus that you are very sorry for your sins

*** Take time during the Penitential Act to prepare** carefully for this *holy encounter with God* *****
by thinking about your choices during the past week. Do you need to confess any **sins**?

*** The Kyrie is a 3 fold plea for God’s mercy. ***
Mercy is God’s love for you, even in the face of your sins.

Is the **First Reading** from the Old or New Testament? Old What about the **Second Reading**? New

Where does the priest/deacon get the Book of Gospels before the **Gospel Reading**? What do the altar servers do?

The Book of Gospels is on the Altar. The altar servers, carrying candles (& sometimes incense), process with the priest who is holding the Book of Gospels to the ambo and stand on either side of ambo.

Why do you make three small crosses on your forehead, lips, and heart at the start of the **Gospel Reading**?

You are asking God be in your thoughts, in your words, and in your heart OR something similar

Who gave the **Homily**? varies Write down one point from the **Homily** that was important to you or made you think.

varies

What immediately follows the **Homily**? The Nicene Creed normally. The Apostles Creed can be used in Lent & Easter Time and at Children’s Liturgies.

What is happening on the **altar** during the **First Collection**? Priest prepares the altar, prayer, mix water in wine, priest hand washing

You fall on our knees in **reverence** for the first time in **Mass** after you hear these words (write it down) that were called out to greet Jesus on Palm Sunday. Hosanna in the highest.

* During **The Sanctus**, when you **fall to your knees** this first time, *
YOU are **mystically entering the heavenly throne room.**

What are the **words** of the priest immediately before the **Elevation of the Host** and **2nd Ringing of the Bells**?

“Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you”

What are the **words** of the priest immediately before the **Elevation of the Chalice** and **3rd Ringing of the Bells**?

“Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.”

After the **Elevations**, listen for the priest to say something similar to: “we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,”

“**inheritance with your elect**,” OR “we may enter into a heavenly inheritance” while you are kneeling. What do these words mean? That you may enter or inherit the right to enter Heaven

What are the words of the priest when you are kneeling after the **Sign of Peace**? varies

When the priest elevates the Blessed Sacrament for the third time, what does “**Behold**” remind you to do?

To look at the Jesus/Eucharist in the priest’s hands

What can you do to **prepare yourself** to receive Jesus, our King, in the **Eucharist** on your way up to receive Him at **Communion** time?

Possibilities: Give your full, undivided attention to Jesus. Keep your eyes trained on Him as you approach. Ask Jesus to make your heart ready to welcome as much of His graces as you can hold.

* In the moments after **Holy Communion**, **Jesus** especially dwells in your soul. *
Remember **you** are a **Living Tabernacle** after you receive **Communion** for about **15 minutes.**

After **Communion**, the priest says, “Let us pray.” **Listen** to his words and write part of them down.

Varies. (The priest prays for the fruits of the mystery just celebrated.)

What are the priest or deacon’s **Last Words** at the **End of Mass**?

Go forth, the Mass has ended. OR Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord OR Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. OR Go in peace

What is the Refrain from the **Closing Song**?

varies