

We hope you enjoy these sample pages. For ordering information, visit Liguori.org.

The Holy and Familiar Catholic Mass

D.D. Emmons



Liguori

ONE LIGUORI DRIVE
LIGUORI MO 63057-9999

Imprimi Potest:
Harry Grile, CSsR, Provincial
Denver Province, The Redemptorists

Published by Liguori Publications
Liguori, Missouri 63057

To order, call 800-325-9521, or visit liguori.org

Copyright © 2014 Liguori Publications

p ISBN: 978-0-7648-2428-9
e ISBN: 978-0-7648-6882-5

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications.

Excerpts from the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for the United States of America © 1994, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—*Libreria Editrice Vaticana*; English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica* © 1997, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—*Libreria Editrice Vaticana*.

Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of The Redemptorists. To learn more about The Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com.

Printed in the United States of America
18 17 16 15 14 / 5 4 3 2 1
First Edition

The Holy and Familiar Catholic Mass

D.D. Emmons

Our Great Catholic Treasure

In every age, beginning with Jesus at the Last Supper, the Mass has been at the center of Catholic life. It is our great treasure. Familiar but never routine, repetitive but never dull, the Mass is renewed every day. The parables of Jesus, the beauty of the psalms, the lessons of the epistles, the inspirational stories of the saints, the liturgical calendar with its many feasts are all refreshing. There is no greater excitement, no greater nourishment than meeting our Lord in holy Communion.

The Mass is not a fad of our time, not some gadget soon discarded or some TV show soon forgotten. When all these worldly amusements are gone, the Mass will still be our greatest treasure, a treasure intimately familiar to every Catholic.

Daily Churchgoers

To me, nothing is so consoling, so piercing, so thrilling, so overcoming, as the Mass, said as it is among us. I could attend Mass forever and not be tired.

~BLESSED JOHN HENRY
CARDINAL NEWMAN (1801–1890)

Early arrivals for daily Mass are scattered throughout the worship area, some kneeling in prayer, some meditating on the rosary, some quietly reading their prayer book. The Mass candles have been lit, emphasizing the holiness of

this peaceful oasis. Above the altar hangs a large crucifix and close by the glowing red lamp reflects off the golden tabernacle. These ever-present symbols remind us we are on holy ground. Behind the pews, more candles cast flickering shadows as they adorn images of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. Beautiful stained-glass windows telling the story of Jesus ring the church, and close to the windows are the Stations depicting the passion of Christ. We have entered into the court of heaven and come to pay homage to the King.

More worshipers appear and noiselessly slip into their pews. Some of those arriving are lifelong “cradle Catholics,” some were just received into the Church, some have been away and want to come back. Little children, elderly men, a businessman on his way to work, the busy mother of four are all filing into God’s holy temple. Many of

these individuals are here every day. It's not as if we all arrived at a scheduled time prepared to observe a stage play or sporting event; there are no novelties, no distractions—we are not here to be entertained. Summoned by our Creator, we are participants in the grandeur of the Mass, bonded together in joyful thanksgiving and adoration. We are drawn as if by some magnet, some mysterious force that we can't describe but from which we can't turn away.

People don't come to Mass in order to be entertained. They come to Mass to adore God, to thank him, to ask pardon for sins, and to ask for all the other things they need.

~FRANCIS CARDINAL ARINZE (B. 1932)

In the peacefulness of these familiar surroundings, we prepare ourselves to