

THE BEAUTY OF THE MASS—6

It is important for us to come to the Sacred Liturgy prepared because our preparation can witness to the people sitting around us. We can be an inspiring example of what a Catholic Christian is.

Just as we have rules of etiquette for dinner in our homes, so our heavenly Father has certain “dinner rules” for this sacred banquet. These dinner rules help us to worship properly. God’s dinner rules are called “**HAVING C.L.A.S.S. AT MASS.**”

CLASS is an acronym.

The “C” of CLASS means Come On Time, or better, Come Early. We should come early to Mass so that we can prepare ourselves and bring our hopes, problems, worries and cares to the Lord. Certainly, don’t be late for Mass. This is something that some of us here need to examine.

The “L” of CLASS means Leave Only After The Celebrant Has Left The Church. In other words, don’t leave Mass early. One priest was so exasperated by the number of people leaving Mass early, he placed a sign on the doors of the Church: *Judas Iscariot left the first Mass early.*

The “A” of CLASS stands for Appropriate Attire at Mass. We are coming to worship the Almighty God. We should offer God the very best. That doesn’t mean we have to wear a business suit or evening gown to Mass. But it should mean that we give some careful thought to how we dress when we come to Church. A good rule for attire would be “nice casual to dressy.” That means that gym shorts, sweats, tank tops, T-shirts are not appropriate attire. Ask yourself: do I put more thought and effort into how I dress for work or to go to a theater show or to the prom or on a date than I do for worshipping God?

The first “S” of CLASS stands for Silence. We should maintain a respectful silence as we enter the Church so that everyone can prepare

well for the Holy Eucharist. We should also maintain a respectful silence during the appropriate times of the Mass so as not to distract others by unnecessary talking or noise.

The second “S” of CLASS stands for Sufficient Preparation for Mass. Do we prepare ourselves well for the Holy Eucharist? More on this next week!