

What Is the Difference in the Roman Catholic Church Between the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Word with Communion?

In Our Parish of St Francis of Assisi at the present time, we are blest to have the services of both a priest (Rev. Don Oberwarth) and of a deacon (Rev. Mr. Andy Kemp). This is very rare. Many parishes in Canada today have one or the other, many more have neither.

Having two ordained ministers (priest and deacon) gives our Parish the great advantage of being able to offer two *stand-alone* liturgies:

1. The Sacrifice of the Mass
2. The Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Below you will see the elements of the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Within the Sacrifice of the Mass are contained the elements of the Liturgy of the Word with Communion.

As you can see, the priest can preside over all elements of the Sacrifice of the Mass whereas the deacon can preside over *almost all* except for the elements where **Priest** is cited.

Why is that?

The priest alone is empowered by the Church to consecrate the bread and wine to become the Body & Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ (the Host).

That is why extra consecrated hosts are always kept in the tabernacle for use by the deacon when he ministers the stand-alone Liturgy of the Word with Communion.

A: Priest or Deacon

Introductory Rites

Entrance

Greeting

Penitential Act

Glory to God

Collect

B: Priest or Deacon

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

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Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading (on Sundays and solemnities)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

Profession of Faith (on Sundays, solemnities, and special occasions)

Universal Prayer

C: Priest

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar

Prayer over the Offerings

Eucharistic Prayer

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

First half of prayer, including Consecration

Mystery of Faith

Second half of prayer, ending with Doxology

D: Priest or Deacon

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites (Priest or Deacon)

Optional announcements

Greeting and Blessing

Dismissal

Deacon Andy Kemp and I hope that the above explanation has been helpful to you.

If you have any questions in this regard, please feel free to address yourself in person to either one of us.