

On the Revised Translation of the Mass
Bulletin Insert 1
“What is the Mass?”

The Mass is as old as the Church. The Church is believed to have been born on Holy Thursday, which we will soon celebrate, when Jesus commissioned His Apostles to service after having washed their feet, saying “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

When He took the bread and wine Jesus said it was His Body & His Blood and that it would be shed for all. Clearly Jesus knew already of His Crucifixion on Good Friday. Yet without the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, the sacrifice of the Cross Good Friday would make no sense. Thus the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection are all bound-up together into one seamless and connected event.

Since each Sacrament is believed to be a mystical communion with, and an action through which Christ Himself acts, the Mass is nothing other than the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection all in one hour. If a Sacrament in an external action in which supernatural grace is given, then the Mass is an aggregate of external signs in which the supernatural events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are all relived.