

What Are YOU Doing and Why?

Sensus Fidelium: The Truth in the Pews 2

Last week I shifted these reflections to the changes in the Mass to come later this year, and will return to them in two weeks. This week and next I will backtrack to my earlier request for your personal reflections on what the Mass means to you and why you come. I have drawn on formal and official explanations of the Mass; in my invitation I wanted to draw on your explanations as well. I received five responses to my request, three from parishioners and two from members of other parishes who read our Bulletin on the Internet. The paragraphs below are drawn from those responses.

*What does Mass mean to me? What does **my week** mean to me! My favorite part of Mass is the awesome week I experience from going to Mass. My days after church are so much more fulfilled from my Mass experience. Sometimes when I've had a really bad day or week, even to the point I don't want to keep going, I will go to Mass and the gospel or homily will touch on the problem I've had. Then I know God is with me. When I pray I know God listens. My favorite part of Mass is when I help serve the host or cup. I feel God's presence up there. I also like my prayer time after communion, talking to God and thanking him in the silence for all my blessings. I also always feel so good about praying for the next one of us who will die, especially when someone that I know personally passes. It's a warm feeling to know that person had all the prayers of Church. Why do I come back? Because my Catholic upbringing has taught me to pay back the blessings God has given me each week.*

I love the Mass especially the weekday Mass... I like everything but would say my favorite part is the consecration. I love to listen to and watch the priest's words and actions as he calls upon the Lord to bless the gifts.

My time of silence before Mass is very important so I can quiet and prepare myself to receive. Preparing myself for prayer is the most important thing. Also, going to Mass on Sunday is all well and good and is what we should do, but if that is all we do, then I feel there is something missing. I want to be get involved in many other "workings" of the Parish as well. If just going to Mass were all I did then I would not experience the full potential of the Mass itself.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact our Council for Catechesis at tkautza@saintmaryhc.org.