

Part I
History of the Mass or Eucharist.

Scriptural Basis:

“Do this in memory of me.”

- These remarkable words were “commanded” (“Do this ...” 1 Cor 11:23-25) by our Lord Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago when he instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper.
- The Church fulfills this command of the Lord whenever we celebrate the Mass.
- This is the supreme mystery of our Christian faith.
- This explains the uninterrupted “continuity” of our Catholic Faith from that of Jesus’ ministry more than 2,000 years ago.
- Church History is marked by a tumultuous history of reform and schisms - which explains the ever continuing emergence of Christian denominations - but Catholicism has remained constant in its faith and practice.

“Anamnesis”

- The Institution Narrative & Consecration (Mt. 26:26-28, Mk. 14:22-24).
 - o “At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, He took bread and. Giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you.”
 - o “In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 - o Do this in memory of me.”
- The Mass is a totally different kind of “remembering” (“in memory of me”).
- It’s the kind of remembering that “makes present what was once done.”
- Our Lord’s Last Supper was an event that has already “passed” in history.
- However, the Mass that we celebrate now is not simply a “re-enactment” or “dramatization” of a past event.
- As a “Supreme Sacrament,” the Eucharist “sacramentally makes present” our Lord Jesus Christ in four ways:
 1. The Word - Old Testament and New Testament Scripture readings & the Psalms
 2. The Consecrated Bread & Wine
 3. The Person of the Ordained Priest, the Celebrant
 4. Each & every single member of the congregation present.

Coincidentally, this Sunday marks the **10th anniversary of 9/11**. The USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops), requests that all Catholic churches in the United States offers our masses this weekend as a “*Celebration of Remembrance*. ” Obviously, this is a different kind of “remembering.” As a nation, we honor the memory of the more than 3,000 victims of this most heinous crime against humanity - a good majority of who are American citizens together with individuals coming from over 90 other countries. We also “remember” those who continue to mourn their departed loved ones in this tragic event. We pray to God that this will never, ever happen again in our American soil and elsewhere.