

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the highest “acknowledgement” or remembrance of Jesus Christ because it is how Christ Himself said He wanted us to acknowledge and remember Him.

Through the centuries and even in our own, Christians have acknowledged Christ in this way at the cost of their lives. For many, the celebration of the Lord’s Last Supper was their own Last Supper. Most of us do not have to contend with that reality yet it is still a life and death decision, an eternal life and death decision.

You may not “get anything out of Mass”. You may in fact be bored or even irritated at Mass. The bottom line is that IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU. It’s about HIM. And it’s about DOING WHAT HE SAID when He said “DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME”.

Let us remember Him as He requires in the hope that He will remember us to the Father when that day comes.

For those who may find this view

harsh or negative let us be reminded that love grows of obedience. Obedience opens the doors to love and understanding. And God is waiting to fill us with both.

By Tim Rohr

This information carries no official ecclesiastic approval. You are invited to further explore Church teachings in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

A more extended version of this article is available at: <http://rohrguam.blogspot.com/>

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## Why do I have to go to Mass?



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## Why do I have to go to Mass?

You don't. You don't HAVE to do anything. Just like you don't HAVE to get up and go to work tomorrow. But then your employer doesn't HAVE to keep you either. It's all about "truth or consequences". The truth is that if you don't go to work you won't have a job. The consequences are all the hardships that accompany the loss of income. Most of us get up and go to work not because we want to but because we understand both the truth and the consequences. Perhaps we should approach the answer to this question from the same point of view.

The TRUTH is this:

At the Last Supper Jesus COMMANDS His Apostles to do what He just did with the words "do this". (The clearest scripture on this is I Cor 11: 23-25.)

Now the bottom line is this: when we come to the end of our lives here on earth we are going to go to end up in one of two places\*. Those who go to Heaven will simply be those who DID

what He said to do (a right heart is assumed). And those who go to the other place will be those who refused to do what He said to do. (\*Purgatory is not a final destination.)

So that's why it's not about your being able to "commune" with God better on a golf course or at the beach. It's not about how YOU can better praise God in the quiet of your home or a walk in the park. It's not about YOU at all! It's about HIM and it's about DOING what He said to do.

Now the next question is "Why on Sunday?" and "Why every Sunday?" The answer is in Acts 20: 7: "*...on the first day of the week when we gathered to break bread...*"

Let's break it down:

"...on the first day of the week": This phrase indicates not only the day that the "do this" was done (Sunday), but infers that it occurred weekly.

"we gathered": These two words glaringly proclaim that this was a communal affair, not some private deal you could do on your own.

"break bread": A continued reading of the New Testament will reveal that these words do not refer to some casual Sunday dinner, but clearly denote the celebration

of the Eucharist.

So the Scripture is unquestionably clear: The first Christians, many of whom were in the fellowship of the Apostles themselves, understood the command to "do this" (1) on the first day of the week, (2) to do it every week, and (3) to do it in community. To not do this would be to refute the authority of the Apostles and thus Christ Himself who gave His Authority to the Apostles and sent the Holy Spirit to guide them into the way of all truth.

Furthermore, Jesus gives us the reason to "do this" when He follows that command with the words "in remembrance of me". "Remembrance" here does not refer to some fond or happy memory, but to a living memorial, a public witness and acknowledgement of who He was and what He did. In Matthew 10: 32-33 we are warned of the eternal (infernally) consequences of NOT remembering Him.

"*Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.*"