



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

THE PARTICIPATION OF FAMILY IN THE LITURGY

By Kellene Goff



Sagrada Familia del pajarito, Bartolomé Esteban Perez Murillo, c.1650, (Museo del Prado), Spain

***But Jesus said to them: Suffer the little children,
and forbid them not to come to me:
for the kingdom of heaven is for such. - Matt. 19:14***

One often hears it said that it is very difficult to participate in the Mass with young children. Holding a crying baby in the vestibule is not commonly seen as an inspiration to devotion during the consecration. A two year old falling off the kneeler while straining to see Our Lord in the elevated Eucharist seems to call a parent's attention away from their own prayers. A seven year old, who must frequently be reminded to pay attention and not be distracted from the Mass, makes a parent feel quite distracted himself.

How do parents with young children properly participate in Mass? Can they participate at all when constantly called upon to tend the needs of their little ones? Some parents are so torn by these demands that they are tempted to think it impossible. Perhaps they say to themselves with a tone of slight self-pity, "Someday I will participate in Mass."

But what is participation in Mass? Certainly the priest, offering in persona Christi the sacrifice of the Mass, participates most directly. But he does this not only for the glory of God but for *"the service of all the members of the Church."* The servers and choir members also participate in that they assist the worship of the Body of the Church. They often sacrifice their personal prayers so that they might perform the duties that are required of them. These duties become their participation and can be united to the sacrifice of Christ. Parents, in their turn, assist their children, who are part

of the Body of Christ, to participate in as full and conscious a way as possible in the sacrifice of the Mass. This assisting of their children is their participation. In the words of our Lord, *"as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me."*

At first glance, holding a crying baby seems to have nothing whatever to do with the consecration of Our Lord. But when a parent sacrifices personal devotion and leaning forward, whispers quietly in the baby's ear to hush his crying, there is a resemblance to the action at the altar. When the child who falls during the elevation of the Eucharist feels loving hands lifting him up, more quickly and attentively than when he falls at home, the action will reflect the holiness of the moment. When an older child's constant distraction is firmly and consistently guided with the same effortless poise as those of the servers going through the motions at the altar, then the parent's role in assisting his children at Mass will be his offering of praise to the Lord. And when some day, a parent kneels beside his child and two hearts, instead of one, are trained to unite their intentions with those of our Lord, the fruit of the parents' service will show itself in the prayers of their children. What a glorious thing for a parent to see his ministrations not as distractions but as direct participation in the Mass by helping to manifest it to the smallest members of the Body of Christ.

The article "The participation of family in the liturgy" was written by a young mother of a larger family at St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis, Missouri in 2011. We think this excellent and timeless piece is very encouraging and helpful for all of us, especially for our numerous young families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feast of Saint Thomas of Canterbury 29th December

Left: The Murder of Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral in the year 1170 - Thomas, as Archbishop of Canterbury, defended the rights of the Church against the encroachments of King Henry II.

This illustration from an English psalter of 1250 shows three of a group of four of the King's knights attacking the archbishop, who was kneeling in prayer at Vespers before the altar at Canterbury Cathedral.



Donations

Week 13.12.-19.12.2021

Collection	£145.00
Bank transfer	£175.00
Total	£320.50

Liturgy Fund	£110.00
Liturgy Fund Total on December 19th:	£1390.00

Thank you very much!

Institute of Christ the King
Shrewsbury Account Information
Sort Code: **40-45-14**
Account Number: **61855832**

SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTION
Sun	26 th Dec	12:30 pm	Sunday within the Octave of Christmas	PI
Mon	27 th Dec	10:00 am	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist Commemoration of the Third Day in the Octave of Christmas	Brian Foster
Tue	28 th Dec	6:30 pm	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Commemoration of the Fourth Day in the Octave of Christmas	Lucy Steven's birthday
Wed	29 th Dec	10:00 am	St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr Commemoration of the Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas	Jane Gillett
Thu	30 th Dec	6:30 pm	Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas	Emma Fawcett
Fri	31 st Dec	10:00 am	Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas	PI AM
Sat	1 st Jan	12:30 pm	Octave Day of Christmas	Father Barone
Sun	2 nd Jan	12:30 pm	Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus	PI
Mo	3 rd Jan	10:00 am	Feria in Christmastide Mass of 1 st January	Christine Danilo
Tue	4 th Jan	6:30 pm	Votive Mass of the Angels	Danilo Family
Wed	5 th Jan	10:00 am	St. Telesphorus, Pope & Martyr	Robert Connick
Thu	6 th Jan	6:30 pm	The Epiphany of Our Lord	Renee-Marie Kelly RIP
Fri	7 th Jan	10:00 am	Votive of the Sacred Heart	William Connick
Sat	8 th Jan	10:00 am	Our Lady of Saturday	Rachel Connick
Sun	9 th Jan	12:30 pm	Feast of the Holy Family	PI

All Masses (also Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at
St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.

Note: Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30pm before the 6.30pm Mass.

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA
Rev. Canon Michael Wiener, Prior of the House of Saint Chad
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