



Understanding the Catholic Mass

Year Long Course
2023-24 School Year



ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: GRADES 7-12

Class Dates: Starts Monday, September 11th, 2023 and runs through Monday, May 20th, 2024.

Class Times: Mondays at 12:30pm EST

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor: Mrs. Monika Minehart

E-mail: mminehart.scholeacademy@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

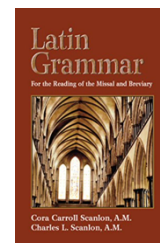
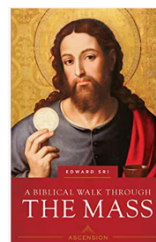
St. Jean Vianney said, "If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy!" The Biblical context of the Catholic Mass enlivens and enlightens our participation in it each and every Sunday (or daily) and learning about our role within this Divine Liturgy in addition can bring us closer to God in a profound way.

This course will take a deep dive into the use of scripture and tradition to bring to light each part of the Mass from the entrance through the dismissal. We will read through Dr. Edward Sri's text, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, while reading from the Early Church Fathers, the Bible, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church to enrich our knowledge and discussions.

This class will be centered on an understanding of the Novus Ordo (Ordinary Form of the Mass), but we will also learn basic ecclesiastical Latin vocabulary and memory verses pertaining to both the Novus Ordo and the Traditional Latin Mass. No prior Latin knowledge is required for this course.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

- A Biblical Walk Through the Mass by Dr. Edward Sri
 - Paperback (July 30, 2021), Ascension Press, 2nd Edition
 - Must have physical copy, digital versions not permitted
- Latin Grammar for the Reading of the Missal and Breviary
 - Cora Carroll Scanlon, A.M., Charles L. Scanlon, A.M.
 - Paperback (1976 edition)



(Required Course Texts, Continued)

-Catechism of the Catholic Church

-Any physical copy, digital versions not permitted.

-Bible (New American Bible) (must have personal physical copy – cannot use someone else's Bible)

SCHEDULE FOR: UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC MASS

CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

Mondays: 12:30-1:45pm (EST) for 33 weeks and 33 classes*

September (3): 11, 18, 25

October (5): 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November (3): 6, 13, 27

December (3): 4, 11, 18

January (4): 8, 15, 22, 29

February (4): 5, 12, 19, 26

March (4): 4, 11, 18, 25

April (4): [Holy Week] 8, 15, 22, 29

May (3): 6, 13, 20 [End 2nd Semester]

**Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment. During "Office Hours" students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material.

COURSE MAP

Quarter 1:

The Introductory Rites – Entrance, The Sign of the Cross, Entrance Antiphon, Greeting, Confiteor, Kyrie, Gloria, Collect
Latin Grammar – Lessons I & II

Quarter 2:

The Liturgy of the Word – First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel, The Homily, Creed, Prayer of the Faithful
Latin Grammar – Lessons III & IV

Quarter 3:

The Liturgy of the Eucharist- Preparation of the Gifts, Presentation of the Gifts, Prayer Over the Offering, Eucharistic Prayer
Latin Grammar – Lessons V & VI

Quarter 4:

The Liturgy of the Eucharist – The Lord’s Prayer, The Rite of Peace, Agnus Dei, Holy Communion, The Concluding Rites (Greeting, Blessing, Dismissal)
Latin Grammar – Lessons VII & VIII

Note: If your parish or diocese offers any liturgical event unique to your area and a student would like to share, please let me know as we can always make room in our class time for this type of sharing.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students enrolling in the course *Understanding the Catholic Mass* should have a moderate-advanced reading level and ability and willingness to learn and memorize Latin vocabulary. This course does not require any prior foreign language knowledge and the Latin taught will primarily be vocabulary and Mass related Latin phrase memorization. Latin grammar will only be very minimally touched upon.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION

Our classes will be held on Mondays in order that we might more easily facilitate a brief discussion about the Sunday gospel the day prior. Students will be given Sunday gospel reflections for high schoolers ahead of each Sunday’s Mass. Students are expected to attend Sunday Mass each week and Daily Mass once a quarter.

Students will be expected to read from our primary course book, the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) each week, answer short essay questions as prompted based on the readings, and study and memorize Latin vocabulary and memory verses each week.

Each quarter there will be a 1-2 page essay assigned as well and students will be graded on their knowledge of the course material and most importantly, their personal development of theological reflection within these essays. Grammar and syntax will only be critiqued if it strongly detracts from understanding. Spiritual development and understanding is of a greater importance in this course.

STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING

While pursuing the course *Understanding the Catholic Mass* through Scholé Academy will be restful and prayerful, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their transcript. It's a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for beginning to explore one's inner spiritual life. Active participation and the ability to challenge oneself through introspective writing and discussion will allow me to assign the following grades to your student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

Inasmuch as you might be fully on board with this grading method in theory, there will undoubtedly be the need to complete a transcript with either a numeric or traditional letter grade. Traditional percentage grades will be provided and will be readily accessed on the *Understanding the Catholic Mass* Canvas page. Additionally, Mrs. Minehart will provide a transcript of that grade to the requesting parent at the end of the year.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

Mrs. Minehart will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading system, Schoology. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to the *Understanding the Catholic Mass* course page.

Student's grades will be comprised of:

1. Reading Completion: 25% of the grade
2. Class Participation: 25% of the grade
3. Latin Vocabulary Quizzes: 25% of the grade.
4. Quarterly 1-2 page essays : 25% of the grade

STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook. Additionally, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any

source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult an appropriate style manual for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the *Understanding the Catholic Mass* Canvas assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Monika Minehart has been working in Catholic Religious Education for over 15 years. She earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Early Christian Studies from the University of Michigan and her M.A. in Divinity from the University of Chicago with a focus in Biblical Studies and Koine Greek. Having observed teaching styles in a wide array of school settings (homeschooling, private, public & charter) in her own education and that of her children, she understands the necessity of restful learning wherever you may be attending school. She is passionate about reinvigorating Catholic catechetical programs through classic spiritual literature as well as modern Catholic resources. Monika cherishes the time she gets to spend with her husband and four children, enjoys weightlifting and exercising in her garage gym, and loves listening to uplifting music.