

Come to the Altar

Where's Your Altar?

The heart of religion is the worship of God. And the heart of worship is always sacrifice; a gift that is poured out on the altar. Where is your gift being poured out? Where is your altar?

Discussion Questions

1. If you could go to any concert or any sporting event in the world (past, present, or future), which would you choose? Why?
 2. What would you say is your primary motivation to go to Mass each Sunday? You are invited to be introspective and honest; habit, love, you know it's a good thing, you get something out of it, etc... Share and discuss. (Disclaimer: if you are actually going to Mass, no motivation is going to be "wrong." It is simply good to know one's reasons.)
 3. The heart of worship is sacrifice. If this is the case, what is the sacrifice offered at Mass? Is the critical moment of the Mass when we receive something or when we give something? What are those moments (of offering and of receiving) and how easy is it to miss those moments? Please share and discuss.
 4. In your experience, have you seen the altar at church more of an "altar of sacrifice" or a "dining table"? How might this change how you approach the Mass? If you don't see it as either, please share how you do see it.
 5. What is one thing that you believe might help you show up prepared to truly worship the next time you go to Mass? Please share and discuss.
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God in Real Life

What is the lamb around your neck that you bring to the altar?

To the Heart

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

A Prayer for the First Thing in the Morning

Good morning, Lord!

Great is Your faithfulness and Your steadfast love! Your mercies are made new every morning.

I don't know what is going to happen today, but You do. So I give this day to You.

Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and energize me for Your work. Awaken me to the wonder of Your salvation, and quicken my spirit to Your presence in my life.

This day is Yours. My body is Yours. My mind is Yours.

Everything I am is Yours.

You will be faithful to complete the good work You've started, and as I step out into my day, I declare Your sovereignty over every area of my life. I entrust myself to You and ask that You use me however You see fit

May You be pleased with me today.

Amen.

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do. I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to Gove myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for your are my Father.

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am and all that I posses, You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.
