

## OUTLINE FOR DEACON TONY'S HOMILY ON CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

Happy to see the families that have come together, from far and wide, and gather in church to start their Christmas Holy Day with the Lord.  
Families are God's special gift.

We gather at Mass to receive the Spirit of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.  
Mass is our spiritual gift from our loving Father in heaven.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass equals Christ's sacrifice on the cross.  
The Mass has all the elements of Our Lord's sacrifice of Himself on the cross.

Jesus is present in the person of the priest.

His body and blood are present in the bread and wine.

The ends are there as well.

1. The honor and glory of God the Father.
2. Atonement for the sins of mankind.
3. The grace and blessings available to all present.
4. THANKSGIVING for the grace and blessings.

Eucharist is Greek for thanksgiving.

If we approach the Sacrament and see only bread and wine, we are to look beyond the physical accidents with our spiritual faith to see the body and blood of Our Savior.

LOOK BEYOND THE BREAD YOU EAT-  
SEE YOUR SAVIOR AND YOUR LORD  
LOOK BEYOND THE CUP YOU DRINK-  
SEE HIS LOVE POURED OUT AS BLOOD.

Another gift is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We humans have a tendency to get out of sync and need reconciliation to get right.  
Kind of like Windows 10-everything needs to be in sync in order to get your e-mail.

Another gift is FELLOWSHIP. We experience fellowship when we participate in the church. Fellowship provides accountability with each other and Christ's friendship, which we can never get enough of.

We appreciate Janice LaVelle, our adult formation director, and her daughter Renee who are passing books as free gifts for you this Christmas.

Merry Christmas and be good.