

RCIA HO Class 17 - Mass – Eucharist - Passover

Passover, Lamb of God, and the Eucharist. The Passover (Exodus chapters 5-13) Moses is the leader of God's chosen people (Israelites). Jesus is the new leader of God's chosen people (i.e. anyone who wants to follow Jesus). When Pharaoh lets the people of Israel go free they "pass over" from slavery to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea.

As the Israelites passed over from slavery to the Egyptians to the freedom of the Promised Land through the waters of the Red Sea, so the Christian "passes over" from slavery to sin to the freedom of the "promised land" of grace/communion with God/heaven... through the waters of baptism. As Moses led the Israelites from slavery to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea, so Jesus leads Christians from slavery to sin to the freedom of the life of grace through the waters of Baptism. The characteristics of the Passover Lamb:

- a.1) Male (Ex 12:5)
- b.2) Without blemish (Ex 12:5)
- c.3) Slaughtered at twilight (Ex 12:6)
- d.4) Eaten with unleavened bread (Ex 12:8)
- e.5) No bones to be broken (Ex 12:46)

The blood is to be painted on the doorposts of the houses. Those whose houses are marked by the blood of the lamb will be "passed over" by the destroying angel. Those whose souls are marked with the Blood of the new Lamb (Jesus) will be protected from the Devil.

The sacrifice of the Passover Lamb is the foreshadowing of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus, made present for us in the Mass. The Israelites are fed by God with "Manna" (bread from heaven) during their journey through the desert. We Catholics are fed by God with the Sacrament of Holy Communion (new bread from heaven) during our journey through this life.

The Mass has two actions:

- 2.1) Jesus Christ gives Himself to the Father as a sacrifice for us (Sacrifice)
- 3.2) Jesus Christ gives Himself to us in Holy Communion/the Eucharist (Sacrament)

Read John Chapter 6: The Bread of Life Discourse: Multiplication of the loaves, walking on water, Bread of Life

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- 1) **Discussion Question.** Be sure you can tell and explain the basic story of the Exodus (Exodus chapters 12-13).
- 2) **Discussion Question.** Explain how the Passover Lamb was a preparation for Jesus, the Lamb of God?
- 3) The Jews celebrated the Passover meal once a year to remember the Passover. We can say that the Last Supper was the last _____ and the first _____.
- 4) As the Israelites passed over from slavery to the _____ to the freedom of the Promised Land through the waters of the Red Sea, so the Christian passes over from slavery to the _____ to the freedom of the life of Grace through the waters of _____.
- 5) As the blood of the Passover Lamb protected the Israelites from the destroying angel, so, the Blood of Jesus the Lamb of God protects Christians from the destruction of _____.
- 6) When did Jesus institute the Sacrament of the Eucharist?
- 7) What is the big word the Church uses to describe the changing of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?
- 8) Who are the only people who can cause the bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ?
- 9) When is the only time they can make that happen?
- 10) As food nourishes our body, so the Eucharist nourishes our _____.
- 11) What happens to a body that is not nourished with food? What happens to a soul that is not nourished with the Eucharist?