

The Mass Puppet Show

Mark 14:22-24 “And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

	<i>(Polly enters)</i>
Mark	<i>(upset)</i> I don't want to go to Mass! I don't understand it. It's <i>boring</i> .
Polly	Aren't you even going to say 'hello' to me?
Mark	Oh, sorry. Hi Polly.
Polly	Hi Mark. What don't you understand about the Mass?
Mark	The whole thing. It's too long. It's boring. I don't get it.
Polly	Well, first, you say 'hello.' Like we just did.
Mark	What do you mean?
Polly	It's called the Introductory Rite. The priest and the altar servers and the lectors all walk down the isle of the church...
Mark	Yeah, holding the big crucifix.
Polly	That's right. That's called processing. They process down the isle holding the crucifix up so that everyone can see the image of Jesus on the cross. They also hold the Bible very reverently, so everyone can see that God's holy Word will be shared in the Mass.
Mark	That's neat. And we usually sing a song while they're processing. I like that part. So the priest goes up on the altar, right?
Polly	Yes. He goes up and starts the Mass with the Sign of the Cross.
Mark	Right. Then he starts talking, talking, talking.
Polly	He prays a blessing over the whole congregation.
Mark	Con - congregation?
Polly	That's what you call a church full of people. A congregation.
Mark	Oh. That's nice that he prays a blessing on the – you know, the congregation.
Polly	And then we ask God to forgive our sins. That's the Penitential Rite.
Mark	I won't even try to pronounce that one! <i>(laughs)</i> Then they read some stuff from the Bible, right?
Polly	Hey, you've been paying attention! That's called the Liturgy of the Word.
Mark	Why do they call it that?
Polly	Because reading from the Bible is sharing God's holy Word.
Mark	Okay, so after we say 'hello,' and 'sorry,' they read us a story!
Polly	Right. Except it's more than just a story. Bible stories are love letters from Almighty God; true stories of great value. Listening to His holy Word nourishes us and makes us stronger to do His will.

Mark	Wow. I didn't know they were so powerful.
Polly	Oh, yes.
Mark	Okay, then there's more praying, right?
Polly	Then we prepare to receive Jesus.
Mark	What do you mean?
Polly	We prepare to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist, the consecrated host.
Mark	The con-cen-trated what?
Polly	Not concentrated, CONSECRATED. When the priest raises up the bread and the wine and says, "This is my body," and "This is my blood," he says the words of Jesus at the last supper. At that moment, Jesus is truly present, changing the bread and wine into His body, blood, soul and divinity. We are plunged into a <i>time warp</i> , joining Jesus in the moment of His sacrifice on the cross. We enter into His one sacrifice for all time.
Mark	Okay, back up. Time warp?
Polly	That's what it's like!
Mark	Like traveling through time?!!!
Polly	Just like that. We still see the priest. We still see the bread. We still see the wine. But we are in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ crucified.
Mark	"Lord by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world!"
Polly	Hey, pretty good!
Mark	I learned that during Lent when my family went to the Stations of the Cross at church.
Polly	Excellent prayer. You're a great kid. (<i>pats him</i>)
Mark	Thanks! But, hey, what is all that singing and blah blah at the end of the Mass?
Polly	That's the Concluding Rite, which is also called the dismissal. It's the moment when the priest sends us out. We are commissioned like soldiers to go out into the world.
Mark	To do what?
Polly	Remember that when we are in church, learning about God, we are disciples. But when we go out into the world, we are apostles. So we are sent out, strengthened and encouraged to do God's will. To love and to serve. To do heavenly battle and save souls.
Mark	Woah. Heavenly battle. That is so cool. I can't wait to go to Mass. Now that I understand it. Thanks, Polly.
Polly	You are very welcome, Mark. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Mark	Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The End