watch over you unceasingly, I intercede for you; I make reparation for you; in your name, I adore, I praise and I thank the Father, and before Him, I take your place. I wait for you that I may reveal to you the secret of happiness! Only near Me, can happiness be found! COME TO ME!"

What a pity it is in the eyes of the Angels that flowers, candy and mere human words should take almost exclusive priority where words fail in the expression of love! The Mass is the greatest Gift! It has meaning as deep as the Cross, as enduring as the Love of Christ. The next time a birthday arrives, or an anniversary, wedding, or any happy occasion for showing love, bless the celebration with a gift of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Take the Hand of God that you may be given the life rope made up of the Mercy of the Father, the Sacrifice of the Son, and the Love of the Holy Ghost. Let us grasp it with faith, cling to it with hope, and hold fast to it with perseverance. Doing this, we will be saved!!!

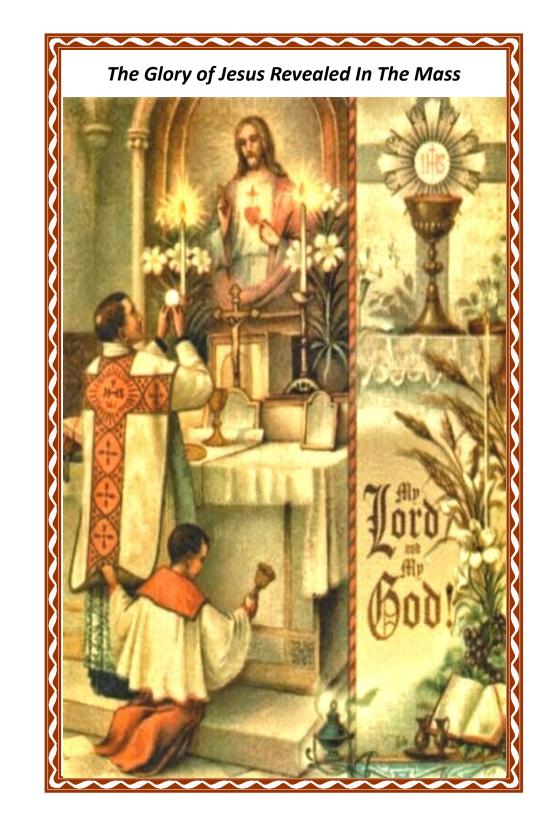
May Christ, the Son of God, come into the world again for you at the hands of His priest! May His Angels carry His divine pleadings and prayers. His Love. His Service. His Sacrifice to the Altar on high: and through Him, may Our Father fill your hearts with every grace and blessing!

I impart to you all, my priestly blessing:

+ In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Father Ivan Kolodiy Byzantine Rite, Greek – Catholic Church, Ukraine

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## The Glory of Jesus Revealed In The Mass

During the time of Pentecost, the power of the Most High descends upon us all, and draws us to Jesus through the Fire that burns in His Heart and which He has enkindled in our own hearts.

Love grows not only by receiving but also by giving. This is one of its mysteries. True lovers of all times and places show their desire to give and receive gifts. New names are coined, in which giftgiving is encouraged as a token of love and appreciation. Flowers, cards, candy, cigars and sending telegrams have all been called upon to form the gift. Still, love's proverbial blindness often overlooks the greatest gift of all, the Mass. God is Love and Love's greatest gift is Love Itself! Some think of the Sacred Mass as a gift only at times of great suffering in the lives of their loved ones or in terms of funerals and Masses for the dead.

The Mass is Christ offering again, through His priests, the sacrificial gift of His Life on Calvary. "Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

On the blood drenched altar of Calvary, Christ gave us His greatest Gift. His very Life Itself. Still, He did not leave us orphans. The night before He died, He embodied the Gift of His Life in a perpetual, commemorative and sacrificial service through the Consecration of bread and wine. THE MASS IS CALVARY! THE MASS IS CHRIST! He offers Himself as the Victim on the Cross for the sins of all mankind. The Sacred Mass is the fullest expression of Christ's Love for us.

Christ came into the world as one who serves. He came to us as a Babe at Christmas. At Mass, Christ comes again into the world by the miracle of Consecration, more helpless than a child; swathed by His own divine Power, in the helpless, mute bonds of bread and wine, entirely Our Savior, subject and servant: subject to every word and motion of the priest. What more could man ask than this supreme act of divine service and self-sacrifice? Calvary, though a perfect gift, was far from

beautiful. It was wrapped in hateful faces, savage sounds, reviling jeers; in the blood, sweat, pain and shame of the Savior. The Mass, the same Gift, is renewed by divine genius in a setting that befits the beauty of the Gift. It is wrapped sacramentally in the spotless Species of bread and sparkling wine, and in a soaring stone of new and ancient cathedrals. To the eye, Calvary was hideous, but the Mass is beautiful to behold! Cardinal Newman said: "To me, nothing is so consoling, so piercing, so thrilling, so overcoming, as the Mass. It is the greatest action that can be done on earth! Christ becomes present on the Altar in Flesh and Blood, before whom Angels bow and devils tremble."

Not only is Mass the greatest Gift of the Greatest Lover, it is a Gift which we, too, can make of ourselves a part. Baptism works an internal change in our souls, a rebirth by which we become a part: a member of the Mystical Body of Christ. This partaking of Divine Life, through and in Christ, is substantially increased by the part we take in Mass and Holy Communion. Holy Communion is the heavenly Food which instead of changing into us, changes us into the likeness of Christ Himself.

In giving a Mass for those we love, we are giving them not only Christ, the greatest Gift, but also, in a measure, ourselves. Our part in the gift is materially expressed by the gift of our Mass Stipend. At the Offertory, the bread and wine used in the Sacrifice is our gift, as it represents our offering. At the Consecration, that same Gift is changed by the power of Christ into His Body and Blood. Miraculously, at the time of Holy Communion, that gift returns to us to be the Food of our souls.

The Prisoner in the Tabernacle speaks to us:

"I love you! I think of you! I wait for you! I pray for you! I follow you with My Eyes wherever you go, whatever you do! I