

Influence of the Book of Revelation on the Catholic Mass

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Introduction

The last book in the Bible, the Book of Revelation, gives a layout for the Catholic Mass. In Revelation, the apostle John has many visions of a liturgy. A liturgy is a formulaic way to worship. The Catholic Mass today has two liturgies, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, which are used at different times in the Mass. The Book of Revelation explains a liturgy, which Catholics used as a model to create the liturgies that are used in Mass today.



The tabernacle is used to store the Body and Blood of Christ. It is opened only when needed and closed all other times of the Mass. "The temple that is the heavenly tent of testimony opened," Rev 15:5

Priests who are consecrated lead and celebrate the Mass. They also follow Jesus and teach his word with every action they perform. "priests for his God and Father" Rev 1:6; "There are those who were not defiled with women; they are virgins and these are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes" Rev 14:4.

"Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts" is a prayer sung during Mass. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty," is the prayer found in the Book of Revelation (Rev 4:8).



The Eucharist is given to the believers of the faith. This is the same as the manna given to the faithful. "To the victor I shall give some of the hidden manna" Rev 2:17. Also, chalices, or "gold bowls," are used in the Mass to offer the blood of Christ. "One of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven gold bowls" Rev 15:7.

The altars used in the Mass having relics of saints placed inside of them. This represents John seeing the martyrs under the altar after the fifth seal was opened. "When he broke open the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar, the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the witnessed they bore to the world of God" Rev 6:9



Incense is used in the Catholic Mass to symbolize the prayers of the people being lifted up to heaven. In Mass today, incense is used less because it is no longer required. In most cases now, incense is used only during special occasions. "gold bowls filled with incense" Rev 5:8; "The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God with the hand of the angel" Rev 8:4.

References

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