
Made for Worship

Small Group Series Based on the “Made for Worship” Homily Series from Fr. Mike Schmitz

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Fall 2025



Introduction

Thank you for participating in Holy Name of Jesus' Small Groups. We pray this is a time of spiritual growth for you and your group and a chance to fall deeper in love with Christ's body—the Church. One of the options for content this Fall is a series of homilies that were released in October and November 2024. Here is a little bit more about the preacher:

Father Mike Schmitz is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth as well as the Chaplain for the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He has preached to thousands locally and nationally. He is the host of the widely popular podcasts, “Bible in a Year” and “The Catechism in a Year” produced by Ascension. Father Mike also offers weekly homilies on iTunes, Hallow, and bulldogCatholic.org and has appeared in programs for youth and young adults through Ascension Press, as well as through regular short video messages on Ascension Presents. —Copied from <https://bulldogcatholic.org/about-us/about-father-mike-schmitz/>



Week 1: Worth-ship (Published Date 10/20/24)

Watch the homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJ6fCr-1Oao>

Invite participants to pair up as accountability partners to cement weekly growth.

Discussion Questions

1. Fr. Mike says, “A thing is worth what someone is willing to sacrifice for it.”
 - How does this definition of “worth” challenge modern views of worship as routine or obligation?
 - In what areas of your life do you find it hardest to offer sacrifice? Why?
 - Reflect on a recent Mass: what tangible actions or attitudes displayed the worth you placed on attending?
 - What sacrifices might God be calling you to offer this week—time, resources, attention—and how will you follow through?
2. “Worship as worth-ship” invites us to invest deeply.
 - How might preparing spiritually (prayer, fasting, reflection) amplify the value you bring to Sunday?
 - Discuss practical ways to remind yourself throughout the week of the worth you assign to worship.
3. Additional Prompts:
 - Fr. Mike contrasts cheap worship versus costly worship. What examples can you identify of each in your life?
 - How does the concept of worth-ship affect your understanding of tithes, offerings, and volunteer commitment?
 - If you had to prioritize one personal change to show the worth of worship more vividly, what would it be?

Wrap-Up – Each person names one specific sacrifice they will make before next week’s meeting. – Leader prays asking for grace to uphold these sacrifices.

Week 2: Presence and Sacrifice (Published Date 10/27/24)

Watch the homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nc1NQAUpK8>

Discussion Questions

1. Fr. Mike describes worship as sacrifice.
 - In your own words, define what a “living sacrifice” means in the context of daily life.
 - Identify barriers (distractions, schedules, attitudes) that prevent full presence at Mass.
 - Share an experience when you consciously offered something uncomfortable as part of your worship.
 - How can that sacrificial posture spill over into your relationships, work, and service this week?
2. The link between presence and sacrifice:
 - What practices (e.g., silence, examen, minimal devices) could help you arrive more present at Mass?
 - Commit to trying one practice this week and discuss how you’ll track its impact before next session.
3. Additional Prompts:
 - What does it look like to “slow down” before Mass, and how might you create space for it?
 - How can the group support one another in staying present—accountability, check-ins, prayer partners?
 - Discuss the role of communal silence and music: how do they shape your presence?

Wrap-Up – Volunteers share which practice they’ll implement. – Group prays: “Jesus, help us lay down distractions and embrace full presence.”

Week 3: Kingdom Priests (Published Date 11/3/24)

Watch the homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9z0PH5uHjg>

Discussion Questions

1. “Worship is not about what we get, but what we can give.”
 - Reflect on moments you felt most generous at Mass (e.g., volunteer roles, music ministry, hospitality).
 - What hesitations or fears hold you back from offering your gifts?
 - How does recognizing yourself as a “kingdom priest” reshape your understanding of service outside Mass?
2. Gifts of time, talent, treasure:
 - Inventory your weekly schedule: where could you carve out time for the Church or service?
 - Brainstorm concrete ways to use a particular talent in parish life over the next month.
3. Additional Prompts:
 - How can small acts of kindness before or after Mass—greeting, ushering—reflect priestly service?
 - In what ways can you invite non-believers or less active members to witness your gifts in action?
 - Discuss the balance between serving inside the parish and bringing worship into everyday community.

Wrap-Up – Each member names one gift they’ll share in the coming week and one accountability partner. – Prayer asking God to bless and multiply these offerings.

Week 4: Kingdom Sacrifice (Published Date 11/10/24)

Watch the homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAEPDHpOfzg>

Discussion Questions

1. Fr. Mike teaches that worship sets us free.
 - Describe how guilt, fear, or self-concern have impacted your worship life.
 - In what ways have you experienced liberation through liturgy or prayer?
 - How can you extend this freedom to areas of ongoing struggle (relationships, work, health)?
2. Living freely as worshippers:
 - Identify one habit that hinders your freedom (e.g., comparison, overcommitment).
 - What practical step can you take to remove or transform that habit this week?
3. Additional Prompts:
 - Fr. Mike talks about the joy of freedom. What activities or practices bring you spiritual joy?
 - How can you encourage others who feel stuck or burdened to discover freedom in worship?
 - Discuss the tension between sacrifice and freedom: how can giving yourself away lead to true liberation?

Wrap-Up – Pair to pray for each other’s area of needed freedom. – Verse: “For freedom Christ has set us free...” shared aloud.

Week 5: On the Field (Published Date 11/17/24)

Watch the homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SQ29AVroT4>

Discussion Questions

1. “At Mass, you are not in the bleachers—you’re on the field!”
 - What assumptions do you hold about your “audience” role versus “participant” role?
 - How does recognizing your active role change your posture, gestures, and engagement in the liturgy?
 - Discuss a time you felt energized by active ministry—how can the same energy apply to Mass?
2. Daily life as the field:
 - Identify routine moments (commute, work breaks, family time) where you can practice “field” participation.
 - Plan a simple liturgical action (prayer, blessing, sign of the cross) to insert into one daily task.
3. Additional Prompts:
 - How can you partner with a group member to remind each other to stay “on the field” during the week?
 - In what ways can your home, workplace, or social circle become a worship “field”?
 - Share creative ideas for mini-rituals at home (lighting a candle, brief prayer before meals) to reinforce the field mindset.

Wrap-Up – Share which daily moment you’ll transform and why it matters. – Silent commitment as group lays hands in blessing.

Week 6: Glorifying the Lord by Your Life (Published Date 11/24/24)

Watch the homily here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg6BGDa7OII>

Discussion Questions

1. “The Mass is the fuel for our life in the world—and our life is an extension of the Mass.”
 - How do you personally experience Mass fueling your week?
 - What obstacles make it challenging to carry Sunday’s worship into weekday tasks?
 - Share a story when you recognized Sunday’s grace at work in a Monday moment.
2. Habits that connect life to Mass:
 - Brainstorm spiritual habits (morning offering, examen, brief scripture) that bridge Sunday and Monday.
 - Each person selects one habit, sets a start date, and outlines a simple accountability plan.
3. Additional Prompts:
 - How can you involve family or roommates in simple rituals that honor Sunday throughout the week?
 - Discuss ways technology (reminder apps, shared calendars) can support your worship habits.
 - What does it look like to “give Sunday away” by serving others, and how might that deepen your fuel for the week?

Final Wrap-Up – Participants announce chosen habit and accountability partner. – Closing Prayer: “Lord, may our lives reflect the worship we offer at Mass. Guide us daily in praise. Amen.”