



All Things Ignatian



Mass of the Holy Spirit

A Celebration of the Spirit Around and Within Us



A collection of worship aids from Masses of the Holy Spirit: 1981, 1997, 2007 and 2009.

THE MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is a tradition among Jesuit academic institutions dating to 1548 in which the community gathers to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation and to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the coming year.

The celebration of the “Mass of the Holy Ghost” at Creighton grew from a student initiative in the early 1880s. It quickly evolved into an official (and, for quite some time, mandatory) all-University celebration, coinciding with the President’s Convocation, and including the recitation of a pledge of loyalty to Creighton on behalf of the incoming freshman class. The Mass was celebrated simultaneously in St. John’s Church and St. Cecilia’s Cathedral in the 1940s and 1950s, as incoming classes grew too large to fit in one space.



Mass of the Holy Spirit, 2010.

The reforms of the Second Vatican Council in the late 1960s spurred the official name change to “Mass of the Holy Spirit.” Since then, the Mass has evolved into a liturgical celebration for the entire Creighton community, involving members of all University schools and students of all religious traditions. The Presidents of Creighton University, Archbishops of Omaha, and several distinguished visitors to our campus have celebrated with the community as presiders, homilists and concelebrants. In the present day, the Mass begins with the procession of the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the Light of Christ; and, from it, the lighting of a cauldron symbolic of the “Fire of the Spirit.”

As we begin each academic year at Creighton, we celebrate the graciousness of God, the bountiful gifts given to this community, and the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit. This all-University liturgy is a public commitment to our trust in God’s Spirit as we discern and live out our mission and identity, and go forth as members of the Creighton family and partners in the Gospel.

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