

# the **Celtic Connection**

*Connecting Traditions of Excellence*

## **Celtic Mass Offered at Holy Family in Aurora, CO**

(from November 09 Celtic Connection)



Celtic Mass – for some, the words might conjure up images of robed Druid priests making a sacrifice on an ancient stone altar on a fog covered Irish hillside illuminated with torches and bonfires.

There is none of that when Fr. Scott Jenkins Celebrates a Catholic Celtic Mass every 1st Saturday of each Month at the Church of the Holy Family in Aurora, Colorado, but he does ask you bring your imagination and think in tonality, subtleties, places and points of emphasis as he explains the concepts behind the Celtic Mass.

‘The Roman mass carries a strong undercurrent of Augustinian theology/anthropology. The emphasis here is that humanity is totally separated from God, is in need of a ransom, a blood sacrifice to appease an angry and just God. For the Celts, we are born with a God given free will. We can and will learn to love God, we have that capacity within us. Christ is our brother, Lord (as in the elder brother, the pathfinder), and savior...but not one who is a ransom.

The tonality about being human is very positive. We are “dance partners” with God. God does the leading and we follow. We “do the dance” together. The music will be primarily, “Celtic”, i.e. It carries a 6/4 beat. However some Celtic masses will be done with a singular drum and a flute. Others will carry only Taize music lifting us into periods of silence. The “spirit”, tone of the mass will seek to connect us with God, nature, and ourselves.

The prayers will invoke a number of images from nature. Nature is the 2<sup>nd</sup> “book” of revelation; the Christian/catholic scriptures would be the first. The Eucharist is consecrated at the table, not the altar. The table is where all are invited to share in the family meal. The altar is where the sacrifice was made.

Dancing (liturgical, prayerful), poetry, silence, Lectio Divina, fire, water, incense – all that calls us forward through the senses to God is brought to light, for we are “good”, the body is good.

There are 4 Celtic holidays/seasons which will thematically color the worship days/ Also, the solstice and equinox events will call us into their gifts as well.

*Fr. Scott L. Jenkins celebrates a Catholic Celtic Mass every 1st Saturday of each Month at 5:00 p.m. at Church of the Holy Family Is Located on 16738 E. Iliff Ave, Aurora, CO 80013 (South West Corner of Iliff & Buckley Rd.) Contact Number: 303-369-9000*