Saint Mary Roman Catholic Parish

94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, Pennsylvania 19526

610-562-7657 ~ WEBSITE: www.stmaryhamburg.org

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 4, 2026

A Parish Blessed by St. John Neumann

Founded 1854

Rev. David J. Loeper, Pastor
daloeps@yahoo.com
Mr. Thomas B. Drogalis, Permanent Deacon
Mrs. Marie Dooley, Religious Education, Youth Ministry & Safe Environment Coordinator
stmarysformation@gmail.com
Mrs. Laura Ludovici, Parish Office
stmaryhamburg@aol.com
Mr. Robert Lesnefsky, Director of Music
Mrs. Marie Dinich, Financial Secretary

Weekly Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Sunday Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil, 4:00 PM; Sundays, 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM
Daily Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9:00 AM; Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15-3:45 PM; 15 minutes before Daily Masses; anytime by appointment

St. Mary Parish warmly welcomes any guests or visitors who are joining us for Mass. If you are new to the area and looking for a parish home, we kindly invite you to join our parish. Please contact our Pastor or Parish Office for information on registration. If you are traveling through Berks County, we are happy to have you with us. Please know that you are always welcome and be assured of our prayers for your safe travels home.

Parish Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 610.562.7657
Religious Education (off hours): 484.575.1222
Email: **Stmaryhamburg@aol.com**
Web**: www.stmaryhamburg.org** *(Bulletin can be found here!)*
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/St.MaryHamburg

OUR MISSION

To invoke the prayers and intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patroness, as we seek to be drawn ever more deeply into the Paschal Mystery and the life of her Son, Jesus Christ. To provide the sacraments, liturgical services, pastoral guidance, and religious education for Catholic Christians in Northern Berks County. To provide opportunities to parishioners of all ages and abilities to share their time, talents, and treasure through religious and social programs. To support those in need through prayer, outreach, and good works. To manage the tangible assets of the parish with prudent administration through the cooperation of the pastor and the laity. To encourage participation in the inter-faith services and unite with all persons of good will in matters of faith and moral living. To be an asset to the Hamburg and Northern Berks Area and the Diocese of Allentown.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims of the Church.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR:
Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC
DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE: 800-791-9209
DIOCESAN SECRETARY FOR YOUTH PROTECTION:
Ms. Pamela Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, ext. 2204 OR prusso@allentowndiocese.org
CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE
1-800-276-1562, **www.ReportBishopAbuse.org**
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
Diocesan Policies & Procedures: **www.allentowndiocese.org**

ENVELOPE USE

With quite a few active parishioners, use of collection envelopes is the only way we have of knowing your Mass attendance. If you are asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you will need a Certificate of Eligibility signed by Father Loeper. These certificates require Father to attest that he has knowledge of your practice of your faith. So please use your envelopes! If a minimal contribution is a financial burden, please put the empty envelope in the collection basket. This indicates that you attended Mass that week. *Please note, all envelopes are recorded according to when they were received, not according to the date on the envelope!*

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

You are encouraged to seek the Sacrament of the Sick if you are suffering from a serious illness or are going to be admitted to the hospital for surgery. Please contact Father Loeper or the Parish Office if you would like to be anointed.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is held weekly before 4:00PM Saturday Vigil Mass, from 3:15-3:45PM AND 15 minutes before daily weekday Masses. Also by appointment!

HOLY ORDERS: If you believe you are being called by God to serve the Church as a priest, deacon, or religious brother or sister, please contact Father Dave for more information!

BAPTISM: Administered Sundays at 12Noon. Call the pastor to arrange. Families must be registered and practicing for at least 3 months. Parents are to attend an informational session. Catholic sponsors (at least 16 years old) must practice the faith and need a letter of eligibility from the home parish.

MARRIAGE: Contact the pastor *at least 6 months prior to the desired date.* Bride or groom must be registered and practicing the faith for at least 6 months.

CARE OF THE SICK for Homebound: Please notify the office of aged, seriously ill or infirmed persons desiring Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick at home.

HOSPITALS & NURSING HOMES: When a family member is admitted, please notify the parish office.

SPONSOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION for Baptism or Confirmation will be issued only to practicing parishioners who are members for at least 3 months. See "Envelope Use" below.

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Family Faith Formation (PreK through grade 8) scheduled Sunday mornings during the school year. Contact Mrs. Dooley or the parish office, or email **stmarysformation@gmail.com**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Depending on location, our parishioners might attend any number of Catholic elementary schools or Catholic high schools. Contact the pastor regarding the parish subsidy policy for students attending Catholic schools or for further information.

OCIA: The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for those preparing for baptism, reception into the Catholic church, or for those Catholics who are lacking one of the Sacraments of Initiation or who wish to return to the Church after an absence or simply wish to learn more about the faith. The program runs from September until Easter.

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION: New members are to arrange to meet with the pastor. Membership involves a commitment to the life of the parish through regular participation spiritually and with one's time, talent, and treasure.

FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER: If you are MOVING, PLEASE notify the parish office!

BULLETIN DEADLINES: All announcements are to be submitted in writing or by email to **StMaryHamburg@aol.com** by ***the Sunday of the week prior to publication.***

TECHNOLOGY NOTES: Follow our parish news and events on Facebook, on FlockNotes, or on our website.

MEMORIAL FUND: Memorial gifts may be made to the parish in memory of deceased loved ones.

WILLS & BEQUESTS: Consider designating your parish in your last will and testament or living trust so that the blessings the Lord has given you may continue to build His Kingdom.

DIRECTORY of PARISH MINISTRIES & SERVICES

Altar Servers & Ministers of the Altar: Fr. Loeper
Bulletin (weekly): Laura Ludovici, **stmaryhamburg@aol.com**
Catholic Charities: Reading or Kutztown: 610-376-7144
Pottsville: 570-628-0466
Cemetery: John Driscoll
Children's Choir: Keith Symons
Christmas Bazaar: Bonnie Katzaman
Choir & Music Ministry: Bob Lesnefsky
Facilities Manager: Mark Kopp
Guitar Group: Tony LaMastra
Holy Name Society: Mike Sauer
NorthStar Women's Center (pro-life): 610-321-7277
Parish Council: Fr. Loeper
Parish Prayer List: Gail Braun
FFF/Religious Education & Youth Ministry:
Marie Dooley (call 484-575-1222)
Rental Information (Pavilion & Ave Maria Hall): Parish Office
SCRIP Website: raiseright.com or call Office
Ushers: Ed Burns
Taste & See (mercy meals): Mary Alice Kuhns

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 3: *27th Sunday* ***in Ordinary Time***
4:00PM + Frank Bechtel

Sunday, October 4: *27th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
8:00AM + Mr. & Mrs. John Petry

Sunday, October 4: *27th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
10:45AM + James & Pauline Gilmartin

Monday, October 5: *St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin*
9:00AM + Rose Iannuzzi

Tuesday, October 6: *St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher, Virgin*
7:00PM ♥ Jane White

Wednesday, October 7: *OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY*
9:00AM ♥ Jovita MacDougall

Thursday, October 8: *Weekday*
9:00AM ♥ Christine & Jim Bradley

Friday, October 9: *St. Denis, Bishop & Companions, Martyrs*
9:00AM + Tom Ricker

Saturday, October 10: *28th Sunday* ***in Ordinary Time***
4:00PM + Angela Krupinski

Sunday, October 11: *28th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
8:00AM ♥ Dorothy Lachina

Sunday, October 11: *28th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
10:45AM + Elizabeth (Betty) Seidel

+ Deceased **♥ Living**

Readings for the Week

Monday Galatians 1:6-12, Psalms 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9, 10c, Luke 10:25-37
Tuesday Galatians 1:13-24, Psalms 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15, Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14, Psalms 117:1bc, 2, Luke 11:1-4
Thursday Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75, Luke 11:5-13
Friday Galatians 3:7-14, Psalms 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6, Luke 11:15-26
Saturday Galatians 3:22-29, Psalms 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, Luke 11:27-28
Sunday Isaiah 25:6-10a, Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14 or Matthew 22:1-10

Parish Calendar

Sunday, October 4 ~ Sunday, October 11

Sunday:
Monday: **Adoration, 6PM**
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Sunday: **PREP/Religious Ed, 9AM, AM Hall**

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Received Sunday, September 27: $6,454

Facilities Maintenance Fund

Received Sunday, September 27: $0

Long before laptops and smartphones ruled our days and our data, any delightfully special, happy, or remarkably memorable day was called a "red letter day." It referred to any momentous occasion that stood out in your life, such as your birthday, graduation, wedding, or a major career milestone.

The phrase dates back to the Middle Ages. Priests and monks creating Church calendars and illuminated manuscripts used black ink for ordinary weekdays. To make important holy days, saints' feast days, and other festivals stand out, they highlighted them in bright red ink.

Over time, the term "red letter day" deteriorated into cynicism and therefore came to describe a very bad day. For the nation of ancient Israel, that would certainly include the Day of the Lord, or Judgment Day. In the context of today's parable, that would happen in 70 A.D., when the Romans destroyed their one Temple in the storied City of Jerusalem. Not joyful at all and very much the destruction of a great nation.

The parable Our Lord tells us today is all about how destruction of any kind happens. The Jews thought of it in the context of both their personal and national lives. For us, it is mainly personal, involving how our future will turn out, based on our faithfulness to God here and now.

That is more than a fit subject for reflection. To do it right, we have to shut down, as much as we can, all those distractions that fill our waking hours. Things like our phones. A good time to do it would be at night, just before or right after we turn off our bedside lamp. Imagining a video of our day, were we faithful to our common calling as disciples of Jesus? In less electronic imagery, would our day be printed in black or red ink? Black for an average return to God for His love. Red for a special heartfelt version by way of something we said or did for someone else.

The wicked farmers in Our Lord's story thought it was perfectly moral to steal the vineyard from its rightful owner, even if the job required his murder. One suspects their nighttime "replay" would have been upsetting, at least, if not frightening. But that's not our worry. The personal is.

Here is an exaggerated illustration of what can happen to a widowed lady who evidently rarely examined her conscience and apparently never had a red letter day:

Surprised to see an empty seat at the Super Bowl stadium, a die-hard fan remarked about it to the woman seated nearby. "It was my husband's," the woman explained. "But he died."

"I'm very sorry," said the man. "Yet I'm really surprised that another relative or friend didn't jump at the chance to take the seat reserved for him."

"Beats me," she said. "They all insisted on going to the funeral."

God love you and make good choices this week.

--Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH: Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

HOLY NAME CORNER: "IRON SHARPENS IRON"
MEETINGS every third Wednesday of the month!

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: A holy hour takes place in the chapel every Tuesday evening from 6PM to 7PM. Mass is then offered at 7PM. This is a simple holy hour (no Benediction).

QUILT NEWS: St. Mary's Quilting Bee is happy to announce the start of our 2026 quilt raffle. We extend our sincere thanks to Phyllis Yoder for donating this quilt from her collection. Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00 and are available on the table in front of the quilt display in the side lobby. We also extend our appreciation to Gregory J. Rautzhan Insurance Agency for his generous donation to sponsor the printing of the quilt tickets. The winner will be drawn at our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 21. Thanks!

FAITH NIGHTS AT THE HAMBURG STRAND THEATER: All films start at 7PM and are shown on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Admission is $10 which includes popcorn and soda. Tickets sold at the door only! The next film shown will be *"Beautiful Mind"* on October 13. *See flyer on lobby kiosk!*

PRAYER LIST: Let's pray for those in our parish & family community who are sick, recently deceased, or otherwise in need of prayer: TODD GLADFELTER, SHERRY LUDOVICI, CEREGHINI FAMILY, DAVID BACHMAN, TERRY DUNBAR, BETTY & MATTHEW SHAABER, FRICK FAMILY, DIANE OLEXSON, MARCUS KRAMER, JOSHUA & LORI KIDWELL, BOB PALKO, LEO SAUPPEE, BOB & KATHLEEN LLEWELLYN, MELISSA ENGLEMAN, KRISTIN YATES, RUTH KREMSER, JENNA PIASKOWSKI, DOROTHY MUZOPAPPA, THOMAS HOJNOWSKI, SR., THOMAS HOJNOWSKI, JR., JENNIFER MILLER, CLAIRE CRANDALL, CATHY & STACEY MONTES, LORI ODENATH, SALVATORE SANGUINITO, MICHELLE ANTALOSKY, MAHALA WACHTER, CHARLES SNYDER, ALEX VAUPEL, CAROLYN BONKOSKI, CAIT DRISCOLL, GARRITH DONLEY. Due to privacy laws, the actual person or an immediate family member needs to give us permission for inclusion & remain on the list for 3 mos. ***Please let us know when your loved one is better.***

Our Church is meant to be a place of prayer and recollection. Please refrain from conversation while you are inside the church worship space. Thank you for respecting God's house!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER: *"It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life."*
— Pope Francis

BVM PILGRIM STATUE: October 3-October 10: K Charles; October 10-October 17: C Dunlap; October 17-October 24: OPEN. Please call the next host family on the schedule as a courtesy reminder.
PILGRIM STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN: *There are weeks open. If you would like to sign up to have the statue in your home for a week, please call the parish office so that you can schedule a week from those available.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: All families with children in Preschool through 8th grades are welcome to join us! If you are new to our program, feel free to get in touch with Marie Dooley to complete registration as a new family. Classes meet twice per month in the Ave Maria Hall.

ALTAR FLOWERS *are given to the glory of God and for family blessings by Arlene Postupak.*

Liturgy Schedule: Weekend of October 10 & 11
4:00PM
Lector: A Miller; EMs: M Bachman, K Kurtz
8:00AM
Lector: B Cordier; EMs: B Malloy, V Bray, K Hinkle
10:45AM
Lector: C Leibensperger; EMs: C Weyer, M Muller, A Rossi

HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS FALL FEST: Saturday, Oct.10. Celebrate Fall with Friends & Family, Dinner, Music & Food! For questions, call Anne Malinowski at 610-921-2729, ext. 2200 or check out their website: hgaparish.com

FOOD PANTRY: The youth (Confirmation through High School) are invited to help at the Berks Food Pantry on Tuesday, October 27 at the Hamburg Middle School from 5:15-7:30pm. Please rsvp to help as spots are limited!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT: Fall fun for the family! Come for a campfire, s'mores, hot dogs, pumpkin carving and prayer! Saturday, October 10, 5-7PM under the pavilion! See Mrs. Dooley for further questions! RSVP with QR code!

SUPPORT OUR CHURCH by donating $5! You will receive a 25% OFF discount shopping pass for **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends** Sale on Wednesday, October 21 (8AM-11PM). Your donation also enables you to register to win a $100 Boscov's Gift Card. See the Scrip Card seller after Mass in the lobby or stop in the parish office during the week and purchase your shopping pass!

THANK YOU to Everyone who participated in our annual HARVEST FEST!

To Everyone who volunteered, donated, helped out in any way, and who attended! Thanks & appreciation!

FOR PRIZE PICKUP: Monday through Friday, 9:30AM to 2PM!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: *What Does Our Faith Teach Us About the End of Our Life?*

Tuesday, October 20

7:30 PM

Join us as Dr. Joseph Blasiol, D.O., and Father Dave lead us through the church's teachings on end-of-life decisions. Dr. Blasiol and Fr. Dave will share the Catholic perspective and teachings on end-of-life decisions and treatments, as well as answer questions like "what are the minimum requirements for sustaining life?", "what is permitted, but not required" and "what is contrary to the teachings of Christ and His Church?" There will also be a review of Pennsylvania forms for Advance Healthcare Directives (living will and healthcare power of attorney) and Pennsylvania orders for life-sustaining treatment. *Sign up in the lobby!*

"A MOTHER'S PROMISE: THE STORY OF PADRE PIO AND THE NATIONAL CENTRE" Sunday, Oct. 11, after the 9:30AM Mass at the Cathedral. Deacon Jim Friend will present a talk on the life of Padre Pio and the Centre in Barto. Relics of Padre Pio will be available for veneration following the talk. Communion Breakfast by American Buffet, $18/person. RSVP by October 5—use the QR code located on the lobby kiosk (preferred) or call Jeanne at *610-433-6461*.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Will take place on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8AM to 1PM! Mark your calendars now! Volunteers are needed...please contact Bonnie Katzaman at 610-562-4036 if interested in helping out!

HEADS UP*! The Parish Office will be CLOSED while the PARISH SECRETARY IS TAKING A VACATION!* Days ***closed*** will be: Thursday, Oct. 22, Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Oct. 29. Please call ahead on Oct. 21, 23, 26, 28 & 30 to make sure that someone is there before stopping in. Parish secretary will be back on Monday, November 2, at 9:30AM.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS are being accepted for three (3) openings on the St. Mary Parish Council. Those elected will serve a three-year term. Current council members are listed below, including those whose terms are ending and are eligible for re-election.

Current Parish Council Members include Joseph Cairnie (youth representative), Sammie D'Souza, Kathleen Heiler, Karen Hinkle (2nd Vice President), Ed Johnson (President), Jim Jurgielewicz (Past President), Phil Malloy (Recording Secretary), Tom McHenry, Mark Mehalko, Linda Pellish, Brian Tyson, Wayne Vaupel (1st Vice President).

Members Completing Terms (eligible for re-election): Mark Cairnie, Doug Greim and Jeremy Kopp. We extend our sincere gratitude to these members whose terms are expiring for their time, dedication, and service to St. Mary Parish for the past three years.

Please prayerfully consider submitting a nomination for a parishioner you think would be willing to serve our parish community. To submit a nomination, please add their name below, place the slip in a sealed envelope, and put it in the collection basket at Mass or drop off at the parish office. Nominations will be accepted until Sunday, Nov. 1. If more than 3 individuals are nominated, elections will be held in November to fill the vacancies. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and willingness to support the life and mission of our parish.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

NAME OF PERSON FOR NOMINATION:

_____

October 4, 2026

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

Written by
THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I enjoy thinking about what it would have been like to hear Jesus' teachings as a first-century Jew. When Jesus calls out the current tenants of the vineyard as being unfaithful, disobedient servants, however, it may have left the crowd feeling a bit anxious. And really, Jesus could say this to each of us at times because, like the wild grapes in the vineyard, when left to our own devices we also have a tendency to fall into sin and produce unsavory fruit. But we also know that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he wants our lives in his vineyard to be characterized by that peace. Christ is not condemning, but he is the Son sent to call the tenants back into communion with the Father. He does the same with us too. In acts of great mercy, Christ continues to call us again and again – even after we reject him and turn away from him. Through the Church, the sacraments, the intercession of the saints, and the holy men and women who proclaim the Gospel today, God continues to seek us out so we might know the peace of fruitful service in his vineyard.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Christ longs to give us peace that surpasses all of our fears and anxieties, and he does so by inviting us to be good stewards of his created world and the community of believers. He invites us to work in the vineyard – to offer our gifts and talents to bring forth the fruits of love and joy that overflow from the work of the Holy Spirit within us. We do so with the assurance that salvation is not dependent on us. Our Father has sown the seeds and has prepared the vineyard; we are simply called to reap and preserve what he has brought into being. And so we trust in the overwhelming mercy of God and humbly accept the love and communion that we do not deserve.

REFLECT

Just as the landowner sent messengers to the tenants of the vineyard, God sends people to us to proclaim the Gospel. Who are those people in your life who are calling you to a deeper relationship with God? How can you open your heart to hear the message of love and peace that they are proclaiming?

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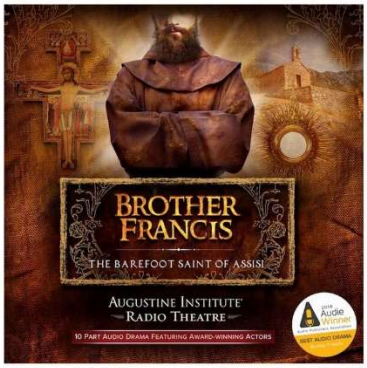

Brother Francis: The Barefoot Saint of Assisi

In this 10-part audio drama, listeners can dive into the life of St. Francis of Assisi as he goes from being a son of wealth and privilege to a man who gave up everything for the sake of Christ.

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An offering from the Augustine Institute

Father, Please Tell Us! *HOLY MASS VS. CHURCH SERVICE: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?*

A young Catholic once told his parish priest: *"Father, my friend invited me to his church. He said they were having a church service. But we always say we're going to Holy Mass. Aren't they the same thing?"* The priest smiled and replied: *"Both involve Christians gathering to worship God, but for Catholics, the Mass is much more than a service.* ***It is the sacrifice of Christ made present sacramentally."***

Many people use the terms "Mass" and "church service" as though they mean exactly the same thing. Some even ask: *"Why do Catholics insist on calling it Holy Mass?"*
To answer that, we need to begin with a story from the Bible:
On the night before He died, Jesus gathered His Apostles for the Last Supper. Taking bread and wine, He said: ***"This is my body... This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."*** (Luke 22:19-20)
From that moment onward, the Church has celebrated the Eucharist in obedience to Christ's command.
This celebration became the heart of Catholic worship.

First, ***What Is a Church Service?***
A church service is a general term for a gathering of Christians to worship God. It may include prayers, singing, Scripture readings, preaching, and other forms of worship. Many Christian communities use this term because it broadly describes their gathering for worship.

Second, ***Why Do Catholics Call It the Holy Mass?***
Catholics use the word Mass because the *Eucharist is at the center of Catholic worship.*
The English word Mass comes from the Latin words *"Ite, missa est,"* meaning "Go, you are sent."
Over time, the name "Mass" came to describe the entire Eucharistic celebration. The Mass is not simply a meeting. It is the highest act of worship the Church can offer to God.

Third, ***The Mass Makes Present Christ's One Sacrifice.***
At every Holy Mass, Catholics believe that the one sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary is made present sacramentally, not repeated, but made present for us to participate in.
As Saint Paul wrote:
"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16) This belief makes the Mass unique.

Fourth, ***The Eucharist Is the Heart of the Mass.***
The greatest moment of every Holy Mass is the Consecration, when Catholics believe that, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words of Christ spoken by the priest, the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This is why Catholics approach the altar with such reverence.

Fifth, ***Why the Difference Matters.***
Catholics do not use the term Holy Mass simply because it sounds more religious. They use it because it expresses what they believe is taking place. While many Christian worship gatherings are rightly called church services, the Catholic Mass is understood to be the Eucharistic sacrifice instituted by Christ Himself.

Finally, every Holy Mass is indeed a form of worship and, in that sense, it is also a service to God. However, Catholics call it the Holy Mass because it is far more than a gathering for prayer and preaching. ***It is the Eucharistic celebration in which Christ's one sacrifice is made present sacramentally*****, and His Body and Blood are offered to the faithful under the appearances of bread and wine.** That is why the Mass occupies a unique place in Catholic life.

In simple words, why do Catholics say Holy Mass instead of church service?
Because Catholics believe the Mass is not only a service of worship. It is the Eucharistic sacrifice established by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper, where He gives Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist.
That is why the Mass is called the source and summit of the Christian life. Now you know.

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