



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*The Mass — Why We Have a Procession*



*There are different aspects to having processions. One reason for a procession is the same reason to have a parade: there is a special event going on and we gather representatives of the local community, we have colorful outfits*

*and lots of music. The parade excites, unifies, focuses attention, and uplifts spirits.*

*The Procession that starts the Mass is NOT a parade, but some of the same parade elements are there. Our procession in church is an effort to unify, focus attention and uplift the spirit of the people of God.*

*The second aspect of a procession is that it gathers people together. From the back of the church up to the front, people gather for Mass. The procession is an outward, visible way that those who share the different ministries at Mass come from the gathered people to lead in prayer.*

*In our procession we have different ministers; the altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Communion, the lector, the deacon and the priest. By a procession, these ministers use a ritual, outward way to show the solemn, joyful, and holy mystery that is beginning. As you watch the procession and join in singing, feel yourself drawn into the experience of holiness. Feel yourself drawn into the action of prayer. Feel yourself united to those who go to the altar. For we are all one in prayer at the celebration of the Mass.*



*With peace and love to all,  
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*