

## THE FOUR ENDS OF THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS



The Mass is a sacrifice. The four ends or reasons of sacrifice are *adoration*, *atonement*, *thanksgiving*, and *petition*. Under the old law, different sacrifices were prescribed for each of these ends. In the new covenant, Christ replaces the Old Testament sacrifices with his one perfect sacrifice on the cross. This same one perfect sacrifice is re-presented to us every time the Mass is celebrated. Christ is both the priest and the victim of this sacrifice. Thus, the four ends of sacrifice are fulfilled in this way in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass:

### ADORATION

The sacrifice of God's only Son is the only truly worthy gift we can offer Him in honor and adoration.

### ATONEMENT

Through the sacrifice of the Mass, we apply the Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

### THANKSGIVING

Through Christ we offer most efficiently our thanks and praise for all the many benefits we receive.

### PETITION

Through Christ's intercession we hope to obtain the assistance of God's grace for our intentions.

We must realize that the Mass is not merely a religious service or a Scripture class; it is in reality an experience of heaven on earth. In the Mass our God is made present to us and we worship and adore Him in spirit and in truth.



THE BASILICA OF STS. PETER AND PAUL

214 EAST 8<sup>TH</sup> ST., CHATTANOOGA, TN  
WWW.STSPETERANDPAULBASILICA.COM