

EPISODE 20 – The Meaning of Incense

1. Incense used at Mass has a variety of meanings. Which one speaks most significantly to you?
 - Through grade school, high school, and early into my college years, I was an altar server. I served at both low and high Masses. I remember incense being used routinely at the high Masses. However, as familiar as I was with the incense and its use at Mass, I don't remember having any real understanding of the meaning of the incense. I believe that if someone had asked me this question at that time, I would have said that it was a way of worshipping God, part of the liturgy.
 - Today I am still an altar server and the only time I experience the use of incense is at funerals and special liturgies such as during the Easter Triduum. However, today I have a better understanding of the use of incense in the Scripture. The most significant meaning to me today is that of my prayers being lifted up to heaven in the smoke and sweet aroma of the incense. Personally I would like to see more use of incense in our Sunday Masses.
2. How can Christians be the "sweet aroma of Christ" in the world?
 - We are His creation, His children. He created us in love to love Him and our neighbors. When we keep His commandments and try our best to serve Him in our lives, we do it because we believe, because we long for His love. When we make such an effort our lives are spreading the love of Christ to the world about us. That love, that special love, is the exactly what the world needs, and if it could be experienced as an aroma, it would be the sweetest aroma in the world.