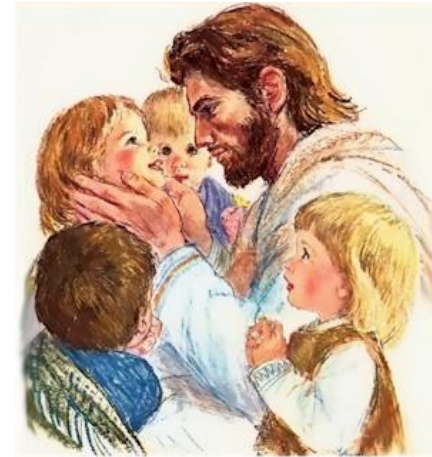


## *CELEBRATING THE MASS*



## *A Mass Book for Our Children*

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## Introductory Rite

Before we begin Mass: We enter God's house respectfully, we genuflect (kneel) toward the Tabernacle because Jesus is present in it. We remember our baptism as we put our hand in the receptacle of holy water and we make a sign of the cross upon ourselves. We come in and kneel in a pew and thank God for our week and ask him to help us be aware of His coming to us in a special way in the Mass. We come together to celebrate God's love for us.

The Mass begins with the gathering and welcoming of God's family. We all stand and sing an entrance song as the altar servers, deacon, and priest enter into the sanctuary area.



### *Sign of the Cross:*

We pray together with the priest:

*“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

*(Our reply):                    Amen.*

### *Greeting:*

The priest welcomes us to join in the celebration by saying:

*“The Lord be with you.”*

*(Our reply):                    And also with you.*

## *Penitential Rite*

Sometimes during the week, we are careless or forget to treat others as we should. We feel sorry for our sins and ask God to help and forgive us.

*(Our reply):*

***Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.***



*(or we say together)*

***I confess to Almighty God  
and to you my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned through my own fault,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do;  
and I ask Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,  
all the angels and saints,  
and you my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord, our God.***

*Then the priest prays aloud, asking God's help for us:*

***May Almighty God have mercy on us  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.***

*(Our reply):*           ***Amen.***

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## *Gloria*

When we sign a song of praise we are asking the Holy Spirit to be with us.

*(We do not pray this prayer during Advent and Lent.)*

***Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to His people on earth.  
Lord, God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord.  
You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, the Father.   (Amen).***

*Opening Prayer:*

The priest then says a brief prayer.

*(Our reply):*           ***Amen.***

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## Liturgy of the Word

We sit down and listen to God's Word from the bible, so we can remember how God has been with us through history.

### First Reading:

This reading is taken from the Hebrew Scriptures (also referred by some as the "Old Testament"). After the reading, the lector says:

*"The Word of the Lord".*

(Our reply):           ***Thanks be to God.***

### Responsorial Psalm:

This is a multi-response prayer that comes from the Book of Psalms. The prayer may be sung or read. We sing of our happiness in God's caring for us and respond when the cantors raise their hand(s).

### Second Reading:

This reading is taken from the New Testament. This is usually taken from a letter written by St. Paul or another writer. After the reading is finished, the lector says:

*"The Word of the Lord".*

(Our reply):           ***Thanks be to God.***



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### Gospel Acclamation:

The Alleluia is a song of joy, reminding us that Jesus saved us. In the Gospel, we hear of God's love for us.

### Gospel:

This reading, read by the priest or deacon is from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).

Before the Gospel begins, the priest or deacon says:

*"The Lord be with you".*

(Our reply):           ***And also with you.***

The priest or deacon says:

*"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to ..."*

(Our reply):       ***Glory to you, Lord.***

*(We each individually make a small sign of the cross on our forehead, lips, and heart).*

After the reading, the priest or deacon says:

*"The Gospel of the Lord."*

(Our reply):           ***Praise to you, Lord  
Jesus Christ.***

### Homily:

We sit and listen while the priest or deacon explains the meanings of the bible readings read today and how they connect to our lives today.

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## *Profession of Faith:*

We stand as a family together and declare what we believe in the Catholic faith.

When we feel strongly about something, we want to shout it out to everyone to let them know what we believe.

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.*

Out of reverence for God's sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Virgin Mary and the gift of His Son, we bow our heads, until "for our sake..."

*For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.*

At this point, we genuflect on Christmas and the Annunciation of the Lord.

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*For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered, died, and was buried.  
On the third day, he rose again  
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father  
and the Son.*

*With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

*We believe in one Holy Catholic  
and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.*

*Amen.*



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## *Prayers of the Faithful:*

As priestly people, we come together with one another to pray for today's needs in the church, the world, our community, etc.

We ask for God's help with prayers for our pope, bishop and church, our world, our leaders, those who are sick or in need, and those who have died. After each prayer, we ask for God to hear us and answer our prayers.

(Our reply):        ***Lord, hear our prayer.***



## *Liturgy of the Eucharist*



### *Presentation of Gifts:*

As a song is sung, our gifts of bread and wine are brought forward to the altar. We also give a gift of money, as we thank God for what he has given us in our life, to help those in need. When we go to a party, we give a gift. The Mass is a happy occasion and we want to share in the celebration. The priest prays and thanks God for the gifts of bread and wine.

*“Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation, through your goodness, we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.”*

(Our reply):        ***Blessed be God forever.***

*“Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation, through your goodness, we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.”*

(Our reply):        ***Blessed be God forever.***

The priest prays that God will accept our gifts.

*“Pray, that our sacrifice  
may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.”*

(Our reply):

*“May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.”*

The priest continues with a prayer over the gifts.

## *Eucharistic Prayer*

### *Preface Prayer:*

In this part of the Mass, the priest talks and says a prayer to us and we answer back. Talking helps us to let people know how we feel.

The priest begins by praying:

*“The Lord be with you.”*

(Our reply): *And also with you.*

*“Lift up your hearts.”*

(Our reply): *We lift them up  
to the Lord.*

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*“Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.”*

(Our reply): *It is right to give him  
thanks and praise.*

At the end of the preface prayer, we sing of our joy that Jesus redeemed us:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*



### *Consecration:*

This is a quiet time where the priest repeats the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper. During the prayers that the priest says over the bread and wine, the Holy Spirit is asked to come down and transform the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Afterwards, we remember that Jesus is always present with us in the form of this bread and wine.

The priest recalls what Jesus did at the Last Supper by reading one of the four Eucharistic Prayers.

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## Memorial Acclamation:

The priest asks us to say a prayer that proclaims the mystery of our faith. We remember Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension.

(Our reply with one of the following acclamations):

***Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.***

*(or)*

***Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.***

***Lord Jesus, come in glory.***

*(or)*

***When we eat this bread and drink this cup  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.***

*(or)*

***Lord by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.***

***You are the Savior of the World.***

## The Great Amen:

The Eucharistic Prayer is finished with these special words:

*“Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever.”*

(We sing): ***Amen.***

We respond with “Amen”, saying we believe this is true.

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## Communion Rite

### The Lord's Prayer:

We ask for forgiveness for our sins and for God's help in avoiding bad choices. As we begin our preparation for the reception of Holy Communion, we pray together the words that Jesus taught us:

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth  
as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.***

The priest says a prayer and we answer:

***For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.***

***Amen.***



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### *Sign of Peace:*

The sign of peace is a special time when we show that we are a big family in Jesus. When we shake hands, we should remember that we are sharing God's love with one another.

The priest offers us Christ's peace and we offer it back:

*"The peace of the Lord be with you always."*

(Our reply): ***And also with you.***

We give a sign of peace, such as a handshake or a hug to those around us.



### *Lamb of God:*

Jesus willingly died on the cross for our sins. We sing or say this prayer for God's continued mercy:

***Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.***

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### *Communion:*

We know that God is great and loves us as we prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. The priest says:

*This is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.*

(Our reply):

***Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.***

When we receive the consecrated host, we hear the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) say  
The words:

*"The Body of Christ."* (Our reply): ***Amen.***

We answer "Amen", saying we believe this is Jesus' body, which he is sharing with us.

When receive from the chalice, we hear the EMHC say:

*"The Blood of Christ."* (Our reply): ***Amen.***

We answer "Amen", saying we believe this is Jesus' blood, which he is sharing with us.

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(After we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we return to our pews and spend time in silent prayer or sing a song of prayer and thanksgiving for God's presence in our life.)

If you are unable to receive communion, you are asked to remain kneeling in your pew and receive your blessing from the priest with everyone else at the end of the Mass.

### *Concluding Rite*

At the end of the Mass, the priest asks God to bless our whole parish community, when he prays:

*"The Lord be with you."*

(Our reply):            ***And also with you.***

The priest continues:

*"May Almighty God bless you,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit."*

(Our reply):            ***Amen.***

The priest or deacon then says:

*"The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and  
serve the Lord."*

(Our reply):            ***Thanks be to God.***

We sing a concluding song as the altar servers, deacon, and priest leave the sanctuary area and exit the area where the people are assembled. We wait to leave our pews until the end of the last song, because we want God's blessing that the priest gives us to help us through our week. Just as we would not leave a party early or until it is ended, we stay to sing the final song of joy for God's place in our lives and the blessings He has given us.

