



Diocese of Orlando Year of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Families and the Eucharist



Dinner reservations are often required when you go out to dinner at a nice restaurant. But when you come to the Eucharist, no reservations are needed. Service is given to every person who comes to the Lord's Table with love and a desire to receive Jesus.

At a restaurant or at home, preparation is needed so that the table is ready for guests at a meal. At church we do the same kind of preparation. The altar is prepared, bread and wine are brought forward in procession, and the choir or the assembly sings a song.

If you attend a birthday or anniversary celebration, there are gifts. The best gifts come from the heart. At Mass we bring forward precious gifts as well, not only the gifts of bread and wine, but also money, the fruits of our work, and an offering of ourselves. We pray to God that he change these gifts into something new and wonderful.

Once the table is prepared, the priest invites us to pray that our gifts, what we have sacrificed and offered back to God, are acceptable. The Eucharistic prayer is the high point of the Mass. It is a prayer of thanksgiving. In this prayer, we remember that Jesus sacrificed his life so that we might have eternal life with God.

The priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer with the *Hosanna*. Just as we praise our host at dinner for his hospitality, we praise God by saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts!" The next important part of the Eucharistic Prayer is the Consecration. Through the words and actions of the priest and through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' sacrifice is made present again. The bread and wine become the Body and Precious Blood of Jesus.

We then sing or say the Memorial Acclamation and the Great Amen. This "Amen" is our "yes" to all that has happened and brings the Eucharistic Prayer to an end. We are about to enjoy the Great Feast!

Word Scramble

amen, consecration, eucharist, thanksgiving, gifts, sacrifice, acclamation, hosanna, bread, wine

asoahnn

ggatkhisnivn

drbae

sfitg

iclcamaaton

fcscariei

hsutceair

nmea

ewni

tenocirnoasc

Special pull-out section to keep for further reference