

# *The Year of Faith*

## *Catechesis on the Mass*

### **The Preface and Sanctus**

This week in our Mass Catechesis, we cover the Preface and Sanctus.

The altar having been prepared, we begin the Eucharistic sacrifice. The Eucharist Prayer begins with the Preface, which is the part of the Eucharistic Prayer that changes with the Liturgical Season or feast. It begins with a dialogue between the priest and the people which invites all to lift up their hearts and to give thanks. The word “Eucharist” means “Thanksgiving,” so it is fitting that we begin by remembering that thanksgiving is the essence of what we do at Mass. Every Preface begins by admitting to God the Father that “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation” to offer thanks. The preface then gives this thanksgiving a specific context in reference to the season or feast which we are celebrating. We all are then invited to take part in the hymn of praise which the angels sing at the throne of God: “Holy, Holy, Holy...”

The beginning of the Sanctus is taken from the Book of the prophet Isaiah. It is what the Seraphim are described as singing around the throne of God. It also appears in the Book of Revelation. The second part, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord...” is taken from the description of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. We are caught up in the song of the angels as Jesus prepares to enter in His glory on the altar of sacrifice under the appearance of bread and wine.

In two weeks’ time, we continue with the Eucharistic prayer...

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