

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

(During normal times outside the pandemic)

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the part of the Mass where bread and wine is changed, and we partake in consuming Christ's Body and Blood, the Eucharist. We recall the Last Supper, the night before Jesus dies on the cross. At the Last Supper, Jesus Christ turned bread and wine into his Body and Blood, sacrificed for us.



The Preparation of the Gifts is when we receive the gifts from the community and set the table for our meal with Christ.



The Preparation of the gifts begins with the collection of money for the poor and the needs of the Church.

The priest or deacon prepare the altar table.

Many times music with or without singing is performed.

The gifts are the bread or hosts, wine, the collection, our prayers and sacrifices of the week.

The gifts are brought forward by people of the parish.

The **people** bringing up the gifts represent the **Church, the Body of Christ**.

The bread and wine are a **sacrifice**, made by human hands, to become the **Body and Blood of Christ**.

These are placed on the altar.



After the gifts are brought forward and the table is set, the priest lifts up the **paten with the bread** and then the **chalice of wine** and offers them to God.

There may be singing or he says this ancient prayer:

“Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received this bread/wine we offer . . .”

And we respond, **“Blessed be God for ever.”**

Then we stand and the priest asks us to pray that God may accept our sacrifice.

We say, **“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 holy Church.”**

This concludes **the preparation of the gifts** and the **Eucharistic Prayer** begins.

2. The Responsorial Psalm

is read or sung. It comes from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament of the Bible. These are poems and prayers that express our feelings to God such as forgiveness, thankfulness and praise.

When sung or read, the cantor sings or the lector reads the antiphon of the psalm and is repeated by all.



3. The Second Reading

comes from the New Testament. The New Testament is the last section of the Bible. These are stories and letters written about Jesus from his birth, death and resurrection and early Christians.

The Second Reading is from letters that St. Paul and other Apostles wrote to people in order to teach and answer questions about Jesus and his teachings. The lector finishes the passage by saying, “The Word of the Lord.”

All respond, “Thanks be to God.”

