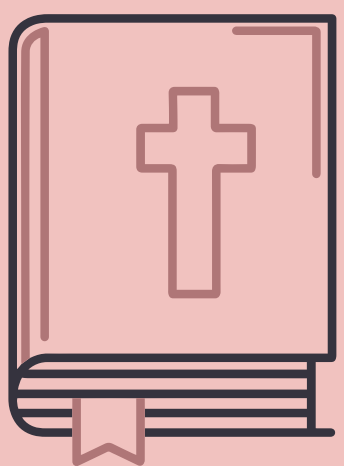


HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

The Order of Mass



INTRODUCTORY RITES The Mass begins with the entrance song as the celebrant processes to the altar. Then, a greeting is extended to the gathered people in words taken from Scripture. The Penitential Act is next, followed by the Gloria. Introductory Rites conclude with an opening prayer, called the Collect.



LITURGY OF THE WORD The Liturgy of the Word begins with readings from Scripture. Most of the year, the first reading is from the Old Testament and the second reading is from the New Testament letters. The Responsorial Psalm is sung between the readings. The psalm helps us to meditate on the word of God.



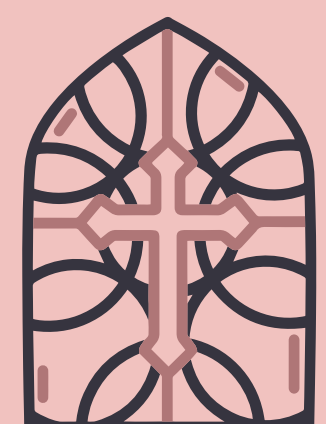
LITURGY OF THE WORD The high point of the Liturgy of the Word is the Gospel reading. The gathered assembly stands to hear the Gospel and it is introduced by the "Alleluia". After the readings, the celebrant preaches the homily. The Profession of Faith then follows the homily and concludes with the Prayer of the Faithful.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the gifts and the altar. The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It contains the Preface, the "Holy, Holy, Holy", the Consecration, the Mystery of Faith, and ends with the Doxology.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST Next is the Communion Rite, beginning with the Lord's Prayer. The assembly makes the Sign of Peace. While the "Lamb of God" is sung, the celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. With great reverence and contrite hearts, the assembly approaches to receive Holy Communion.



CONCLUDING RITES The Mass ends with the Concluding Rites, during which announcements may be made after the Prayer after Communion. The celebrant then blesses the assembly and dismisses them. The liturgy does not simply come to an end. Those assembled are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Eucharist to the world.