

Part 3. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts: What We Offer (Child)

A meal is meant to give us strength to do good things! During the presentation of the gifts we offer bread and wine for the shared meal, but are also called to offer our special talents to God. Those talents might be visiting the people, who are lonely and sad, and making them smile, helping our parents or younger brother or sister, or even helping to feed the hungry.

What special gifts would you like to offer to God and the community during Mass? Write or draw the gifts you would like to share!

Presentation of the Gifts: We Offer our Gifts (Parents)

The Mass is a family gathering! Share with the children that when we visit friends and family we usually offer to bring food or drinks, or even a gift for the ones who are hosting us. While the community presents the gifts of bread and wine to the priest for our shared Eucharist, we all offer our gifts and talents to God and our community.

A meal is meant to give us strength to do good things! During the presentation of the gifts we offer bread and wine for the shared meal, but are also called to offer our special talents to God. Those talents might be visiting people, who are lonely and sad, and making them smile, helping our parents or younger brother or sister, or even helping to feed the hungry.

(Offer some additional suggestions of what they might do, and then encourage them to write or draw the gifts that they would like to share with the community. Tell them to talk about this with their parents when they get home!)

What special gifts would you like to share with God and the community during Mass? Write or draw the gifts you would like to share!

Prayer over the Offerings (Child)

Practice the responses!

The Priest:

Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

The people 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 holy Church.

The Priest:

Says a prayer over the offering

The people reply:

Amen

Prayer over the Offerings (Parent)

Tell the children that we pray that God accepts what we offer Him. Our offerings of the gifts of bread and wine, our gifts of the poor, and our talents we offer to help those in need. The most important part of this, is helping the children become familiar with the responses.

Practice the responses!

The Priest:

Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

The people 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 holy Church.

The Priest:

Says a prayer over the offering

The people reply:

Amen

**Eucharistic Prayer: The Preface and Holy, Holy, Holy and The Eucharistic Prayer
(Child)**

The Priest:

The Lord be with you

The people reply:

And with your Spirit

The Priest:

Lift up your hearts.

The people reply:

We lift them up to the Lord.

The Priest:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The people reply:

It is right and just.

Then the priest will invite us to join our prayers with the angels and saints, and
the heaven and earth, and we will sing!

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts

Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer: The Preface and Holy, Holy, Holy (Parent)

Review the preface with the children. Remind them that we've used the first part before at the beginning of Mass, and before the Gospel. By now they should be comfortable saying 'and with your spirit'.

If you are comfortable, try singing the Holy, Holy, Holy with the children. If not recite it a few times with them. If you sing it with them, they will probably be more engaged!

The Priest:

The Lord be with you

The people reply:

And with your Spirit

The Priest:

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The Lord's Prayer: We Ask for What We Need (Child)

When Jesus' apostles and disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, Jesus offered them the Lord's Prayer! In this prayer we ask God for the things we need in our life. We ask to live in God's Kingdom, to receive food and our needs, and to be forgiving and forgiven! Pay special attention today, because when we pray this at Mass, it is a little different than when we pray at home.

The Lord's Prayer

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:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant us peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The people reply:

For the kingdom, power, and glory are yours now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer: We Ask for What We Need (Parent)

Many of the children have been praying the Lord's Prayer since first grade or younger. However, they might not be familiar with the way we conclude the prayer at Mass (take extra time with these responses).

When Jesus' apostles and disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, Jesus offered them the Lord's Prayer! In this prayer we ask God for the things we need in our life. We ask to live in God's Kingdom, to receive food and our needs, and to be forgiving and forgiven! Pay special attention today, because when we pray this at Mass, it is a little different than when we pray at home.

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The people reply:

For the kingdom, power, and glory are yours now and forever. Amen

The Sign of Peace (Child)

The Priest:

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The people reply:

Amen

The Priest:

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

The Priest or deacon:

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.



Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

The Sign of Peace

Practice the dialogue, and give an example of the sign of peace. Hand shake while saying “The peace of Christ be with you”. Let the children give each other the sign of peace. Make sure that no one is left out.

The Priest:

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The people reply:

Amen

The Priest:

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

The Priest or deacon:

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

If time allows you can read this Scripture and explain how Mass is a sacrifice, and before we approach the altar, we should make good with our friends and family.

Matthew 5:23-24

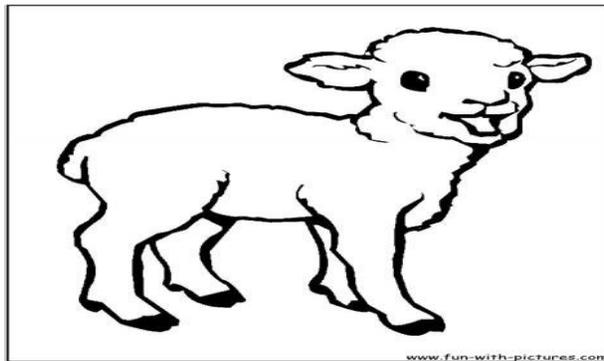
Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Eucharistic Prayer: Lamb of God (Child)

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.



Eucharistic Prayer: Lamb of God (Parent)

Ask the children, what is a lamb? What sound does a lamb make? Did you know Jesus is called the Lamb of God? After the bread becomes Jesus' Body, and the wine becomes Jesus' blood the priest presents them to us and says "Behold the Lamb of God".

At Mass we sing a song called the Lamb of God can you sing it with me?

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.

Jesus is the Lamb of God and He is present in the Eucharist! After the Eucharistic Prayer, and after the Lamb of God the priest will lift the bread and wine, and say:

Behold the Lamb of God,

Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

The people respond:

Lord, I am not worthy

that you should enter under my roof,

but only say the word

and my soul shall be healed.

Communion (Parent)

Model the postures for receiving Eucharist

Explain that:

1. As they process to the front of the Church to receive, they should have “prayer hands”.
2. As they approach the front and the priest or the Eucharistic minister, they should bow because they are holding Jesus. (Same for the Chalice even if they won’t be receiving).
3. The Priest or Eucharistic minister will say “The Body of Christ” and “The Blood of Christ”. They should make a sign of the cross with their hands to receive and say Amen.) Their writing hand should be on the bottom, explain that this allows them to use that hand to take Jesus and eat).
4. After consuming they should pray the sign of the Cross, and either receive the blood of Christ, or return to their seat.
5. Afterwards they should kneel and pray to say thank you to Jesus!

Eucharistic Prayer: Jesus Gives Himself to Us (Family)

Every time we go to Mass, the priest does what the Apostles were told to do, and they give us Jesus! Just like Jesus, the priests say a prayer over the bread and wine, and Jesus is there for us!

To Read at Home

Saint Paul tells us what Jesus said and did for his Apostles:

1 Corinthians 23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

At home, discuss with your parents:

- 1. Jesus wanted to share a meal with us that is why He asked His Apostles to offer the meal every time we gather together. How important is First Communion and the Mass for our Family?**
- 2. How would you tell the story of the Last Supper in your own words?**
- 3. Is there someone your family can invite to First Eucharist or Mass, that hasn't visited with Jesus in a while?**

Prayer After Communion (Family)

Tell the children that After we receive Communion the priest leads us in a special prayer. We ask God that what we receive in the Eucharist stays in our daily lives!

**If time allows, have recite the prayer for the children. Otherwise, tell them to do this one at home.*

One prayer after Communion looks like this:

**God of grace,
today we raise our voices
to magnify your holy name,
and, in our own generation, to call her blessed
who became the mother of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
May we who have shared this holy food
continue, with her, in your glorious kingdom,
founded and established in Jesus Christ our Lord.
We ask this in his name.**

Amen.

At Home: Create your own Communion prayer with your parents, review it as a family before you come to celebrate First Eucharist!
