

# Mass Moments

## Spring Series: Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Key Points - May 11



#### The Offertory and Preparation of the Gifts

- The “Offertory” opens up the mystery of Christ’s love in the Incarnation, wherein God’s Son in His Divinity humbled Himself to share in our humanity. And as God awaited Mary’s fiat - “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) We are now invited to give our humble “yes” to what in love we will freely offer.
- The Ordained (Bishop-Priest-Deacon) receives what the faith of the community has to offer, as the raw material for Christ’s self-sacrificial offering to the Father. Moreover, the “Offertory” emphasizes the necessity of the meager gifts that our poor humanity has to offer - “The fruit of the vine and work of human hands”. Symbolized in the bread, wine, water, and money, etc., our humanity is offered to Christ as He prepares to offer everything to the Father.
- Little Mysteries: 1) Water mixed with Wine In preparing the Priest’s chalice, drops of water – representing our humanity – is added to the chalice with the wine, “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” 2) Incensing the Gifts-Altar-Priest-People Incense expresses the prayerful relationship between the gifts offered and the people’s faith. 3) Washing of Hands The Priest prays: “Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” The Priest’s hands become Christ’s own hands and must be purified. Next, the Priest invites the people to the sacrifice, “Pray brothers-sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.” All respond, “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.”
- Finally, the Priest offers a “Prayer over the Gifts” for their transformation and ours.



# Reflection Questions

- Consider how in little ways you can offer your whole self (mind-heart-soul-strength) the next time you come to more fully, consciously, and actively participate in worship at Mass.
- As a family, have you ever been privileged to represent the faithful by bringing forward the gifts of bread, wine, and water in the “Offertory” procession? Consider the life-giving role that simple bread and wine, to be consecrated at Mass, have played in your life. Pray about how you can always participate spiritually in the procession of gifts to the altar.
- Reflect how the Offertory and Preparation of Gifts is your own opportunity to gratefully and generously offer to God your time, talents, and treasure for the good of others and His glory.

## Resources for the Whole Family

**Recommended resources this week - scan the QR code to view resources for this series on our website:**

- *What Happens at Mass* - Chapter 4, pg. 59-67
- <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog-categories/series-on-the-mass>
- **For Families:** check out: THE CATHOLIC MASS EXPLAINED: What Happens During the Preparation of the Gifts? video by *Every Day Can Be a Sunday*.  
[https://youtu.be/0kLfBxc0QZA?si=RrHk9\\_DLvQlidX29](https://youtu.be/0kLfBxc0QZA?si=RrHk9_DLvQlidX29)



## Events at St. Mary's & the Archdiocese

- **Eucharistic Adoration** at St. Mary's – Wednesdays from 8:30 AM – 8 PM in the Notre Dame chapel. Sign up on our website.
- **“The New and Eternal Covenant” (Year 2: The Mass)** speaker series. Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 6-9 PM at Pax Christi, Eden Prairie with Fr. Joncas & Vicki Klima, more information on the Archdiocese website: [www.archspm.org](http://www.archspm.org)
- **“Come Away with Me”** one day retreat at Dunrovin Retreat Center, Marine on the St. Croix, Saturday, May 17, 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, <https://www.dunrovin.org/visit/adult-retreats/come-away-with-me-retreats/>