

Mass Series #3 - Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

The Offertory Chant (hymn) is sung at Mass while the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The music accompanies the ritual action of preparing the gifts. Whenever music happens throughout the preparation, the priest may say the formulas of blessing quietly, and the people need not make the customary response, “Blessed be God for ever.”

The weekly **collection** humbly expresses the community’s faith. We believe that what we have comes from God, and we know it was given for the enjoyment of all. A habit of giving comes from a heart that has learned the satisfactions of generosity. A habit of giving offers us peace that we are doing our part to make the world a better, more generous place. Your church depends on your gift. Parishes receive money like beggars, not like clerks. People give not to receive a product; they give to make a gift.

Several **inaudible prayers** appear during the Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts. When mixing the water and the wine, the priest says, “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.” The priest then quotes from a little-used portion of the Book of Daniel, a prayer delivered by Azariah in the fiery furnace: “With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.” As he washes his hands, he quotes Psalm 51: “Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.”

After the priest washes his hands at Mass, he invites the people to pray that their sacrifice and his will be acceptable to God. The people 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.” Here succinctly stated are the reasons why we offer the sacrifice of the Mass. The priest petitions God in the Prayer over the Offerings to accept our gifts with joyful anticipation of their transformation into the Body and Blood of Christ.

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Learn more about the Mass. Listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz’s “Reflections on the Mass” at <https://youtu.be/cdBQmSBLZYY>