

PREPARING FOR THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MASS

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

On the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, Catholic parishes in the United States will begin praying the texts of the Mass using a new English translation of *The Roman Missal*. This week, we explore the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

We begin by preparing the altar for the holy sacrifice to come. In the Prayer over the Gifts we get ready to offer ourselves and our lives together with the bread and wine so that we too might be transformed by God. In the Preface Dialogue we declare that it is right and just to give thanks to the Lord our God, and in the Preface we proclaim the reasons that we give God our thanks and praise. Then comes the great Eucharistic Prayer by which we render our thanks and praise to God the Father. As we recall what Jesus said and we do what he did at the Last Supper, God transforms the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, and we pray that we will also be transformed by the Eucharist we celebrate and receive. We ratify this wonderful action with the Great Amen, and prepare for the culmination of the Liturgy of the Eucharist in Holy Communion.

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