

A Story About Going to Mass



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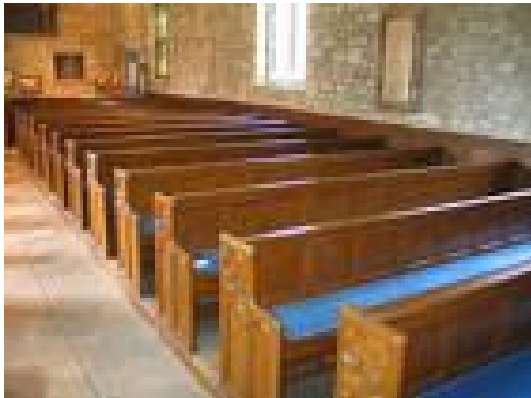
When I enter church I dip the tips of the fingers on my right hand in the holy water and bless myself with the sign of the cross.



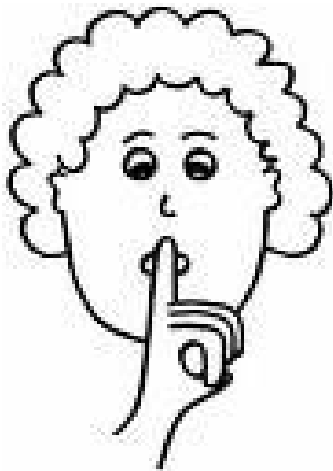
To myself or out loud I say, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”



I find a place to sit with my family. All around us are other people in my parish. We all come together to celebrate that God is with us and active in our world.



The seats look like long benches. The long benches are called pews.



I will try my best to sit quietly during Mass. If I need Mom or Dad I will speak in a whisper.



Everyone stands and we sing to God. It is called the Gathering Song



The altar servers, lector, deacon and priest walk to the altar from the main entrance door.

We know that the Mass has begun when the priest says, “In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.”

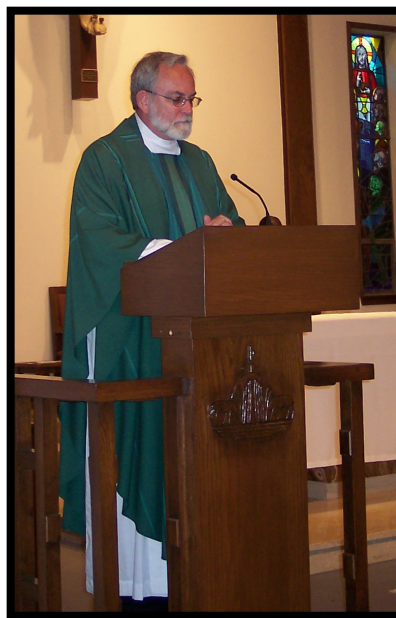




The first part of Mass is the Liturgy of the Word. This is where God speaks to us through His word in the Bible.



Lector



Priest

The lector and the priest or deacon reads to us from the Bible.



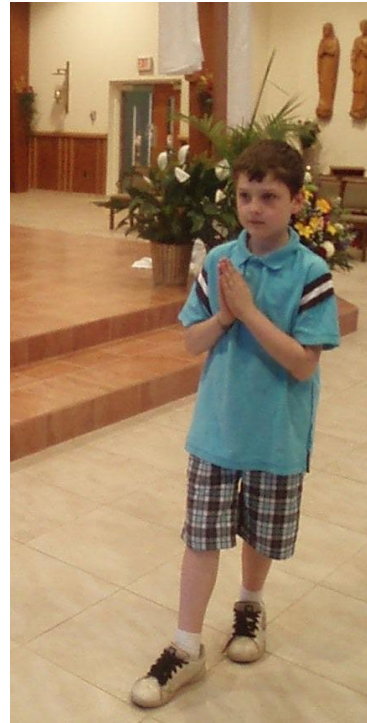
The second part of the Mass is the Liturgy of the Eucharist

This is where the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.



It is now time for me to receive Jesus. This is called Communion.

I walk up to receive Communion quietly and prayerfully.

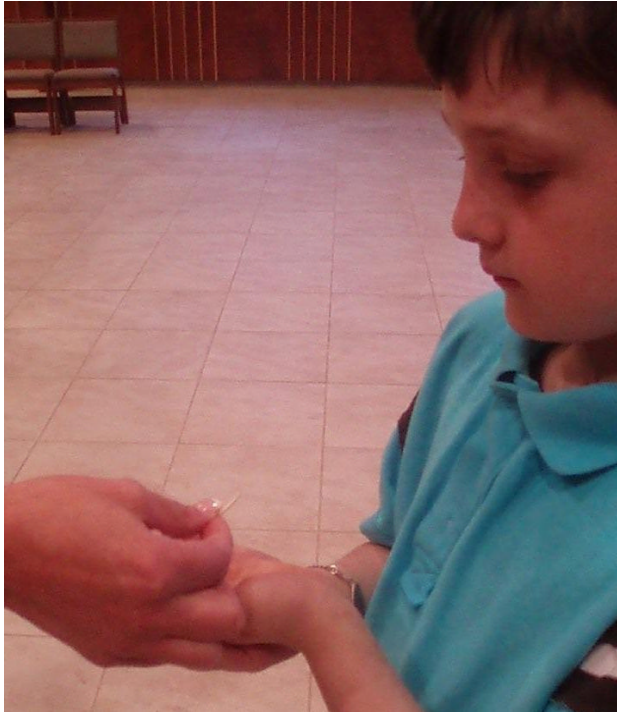


When it is my turn, I bow my head slightly to show respect for Jesus. The priest or minister of Communion will say “The Body of Christ.”

I will say “Amen.”



I receive Jesus in the Host.



... and in the Wine.



Once I have received Communion I go back to my seat, kneel down and quietly pray.



When Communion is finished the priest will say the closing prayers and give a blessing. We will all make the sign of the cross.



I will know that the Mass has ended when the priest or deacon says. "The Mass has ended. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord."



We sing about bringing Jesus into our world.



Then the altar server, deacon and priest will walk out of the church. They may be led by someone holding the crucifix, called a “cross bearer.”



When I leave the church I dip my fingers into the holy water,



and bless my self while I quietly say “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”