

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord –
Cycle B

Sunday or feast date: June 13-14, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

Each of these Cycle B readings could be proclaimed apart from one another and still provide a fitting reflection for what Eucharist is and the place the Eucharist has in the life of the Church. This weekend the reading from Exodus establishes the covenant between God and God's people, unbreakable. Through the ritual act it is established that the Lord never is to leave His people. Blood on the altar and blood on the people shows that God's share in the covenant will be faithful.

The letter to the Hebrews refers to the great High Priest, Jesus Christ. His one sacrifice replaces all others, and fulfills the sacrificial mandates of the Old Testament.

Mark's Passion account is given showing Jesus celebrating the Passover meal with His disciples. He is the new Passover lamb. The Eucharist is the sacrifice of the Church, given to nourish men and women of the Church to live as the body of Christ in the world. As St. Augustine says: *you are that which you receive; you become what you receive; you become what you eat.*

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. What is your most significant memory of celebrating the Eucharist? Why do you think this is so?
2. What does it mean to be fully, actively and consciously celebrating the Mass?
3. How are you being the Body and Blood of Christ in the lives of those with whom you live?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. If you are using the third form of the Penitential Rite, use the second and sixth set as given in the *Missal*. These have the strongest Eucharistic imagery.
2. The Opening Prayers offer two perspectives of the Eucharist; as a gift for adoration , for personal spiritual benefit and as a living person- – he Lord Jesus, who is present at the Altar and who feeds his people. Keeping this in mind, choose the Opening Prayers carefully. The Alternative Opening Prayer better reflect the communal dimensions of this sacrament. The first Opening Prayer focuses on personal adoration and cleansing. The Alternative Opening Prayer is the more recommended for Mass. Note that this is one of the few times when the Opening Prayer in the *Roman Missal* is addressed to Jesus and not the Father.
3. Preface II of Ordinary Time is the more recommended.
4. Solemn Blessing III Ordinary time comments on the life the believer should have as one leaves the celebration.

Looking Ahead...

1. Father's Day is June 21, the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time. There is a blessing for Fathers which can be included within Mass in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 56.
2. Information has been sent out about the workshop for Priests/ Deacons on Thursday, June 18, focusing on "Sing To The Lord: Music In Divine Worship," from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at St. Aloysius Parish Hall. The workshop is designed to assist priests with examining the newest document from the USCCB on music at worship, with emphasis on some of the pertinent changes in the texts of the *Sacramentary* prayers coming in the *Roman Missal* revision.
3. Information has also been sent out about the similar workshop for parish musicians, cantors, choirs, instrumentalists, DRE'S, school music directors, also on Thursday, June 18, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm.
4. Information has been disseminated about the North American Forum on the Catchumenate's *Furthering the Initiation Experience Institute*, to be held at the Catholic Life Center here in Baton Rouge on June 26-27.
5. Note that Independence Day, July 4, is a Saturday this year. Some acknowledgement of this principal secular feast appropriately may be incorporated into the assembly's prayer that day.

Sample Intercessory Prayers for Corpus Christi

Priest: To the Father who is faithful in love, we offer our prayers of need:

Deacon (or other reader if there is no priest):

1. For the Church to be faithful to the Eucharistic life of self giving, generosity and peace, we pray to the Lord...
2. For all nations and leaders of every country; for our President; may the Holy Spirit direct governments for the cause of true justice and lasting peace, we pray to the Lord...
3. For those who languish in hunger and poverty; for those who find life burdensome and who live without hope; that their cries to God may not be forgotten, we pray to the Lord...
4. For all who are ill; for those who suffer from depression and mental illness; may they find peace of mind and heart through God's grace, we pray to the Lord...
5. For all who have died; may they see their hopes for eternal life fulfilled in the Kingdom of heaven, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace and in silence, we offer to the Lord our prayers of need...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: O God of all time and place,
as once you gave your Son for us,
now give answer to our prayers.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.