



The Eucharistic Prayer

In the Eucharistic Prayer, Jesus becomes present, body and blood, soul and divinity, under the forms of bread and wine. His saving action is once again enacted and offered to the Father by Jesus Himself in the person of the priest, and by all present.

The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus brought about our redemption from sin and eternal death, as it was offered once for all on Calvary. **It becomes present again for us, here in now, in this time and place in the Mass, so that we can join in Jesus' perfect offering and can ourselves participate in His perfect worship.**

The Eucharistic Prayer is offered to the Father. It is worship offered to the Father by Jesus as it was at the moment of His passion, death and resurrection. **Now it is offered through the priest acting in the person of Christ, and it is offered as well by all of us who are part of Christ's Body, the Church. This offering is the action of Christ's Body, the Church.**

When the priest prays this prayer he prays *we bring you these gifts; we ask you...; we offer*. That “*we*” signifies that all the baptized present at this Eucharistic celebration make this offering in union with Jesus and pray this prayer in union with Him. Thus in union with Jesus though the hands of the priest, we are called to offer to the Father ourselves, our lives, our individual efforts to grow more like Jesus and our efforts as a community of believers to spread God's Word and serve God's people.

Joined with the offering of Jesus, our offering becomes perfect praise and thanksgiving to the Father.

Our Action during the Eucharistic Prayer

At the beginning we join in the prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Father known as the **Preface**. We affirm this praise and thanksgiving in our singing of the Holy, Holy, Holy.

Following the **Consecration** we join together in the **Memorial Acclamation**. This proclaims our common faith in Jesus' real presence. It is an acclamation expressing our gratitude to him for his wonderful gift of salvation.

Then our prayer moves on and **we are called to offer Jesus, and ourselves with him to the Father**: “We offer to you, Father, this holy and living sacrifice...” and to pray with the priest that “we who are nourished by His Body and Blood may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become one body, one spirit in Christ...”

We then join our prayers with the prayers of Mary and all the saints for our Holy Father the Pope, our bishops and clergy and all God's people, living and dead.

At the **conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer** the priest sums up all that has gone before: “Through Him (Jesus), with Him (Jesus), in Him (Jesus) in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.” ***And we, who are privileged to make our own offering through, with and in Jesus, respond with the most important acclamation of the Mass, the great AMEN by which we profess the action of Jesus to be our action as well.***

Based upon the Roman Missal Formation Materials provided by the Secretariat for the Liturgy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010 2010 For more information go to www.usccb.org/romanmissal

