



# We Give Thanks

**?** What is a gift you have received?

All good things come from God. Think of your many blessings. Join with all God's people and pray,

*"I will join with your people, Lord God.  
I will thank you in the great assembly."*

BASED ON PSALM 35:18

**?** What do you want to thank God for?



**Thankfulness**

Thankfulness is a big part of who we are as disciples of Jesus. We have received wonderful blessings and gifts. Jesus calls us to be a thankful people.

## Thank You, Lord

Saint Francis of Assisi knew all his blessings came from God. Francis was so full of joy, he often sang his thanks to God.

Catholics thank God for their blessings in many ways. Today the followers of Saint Francis are called Franciscans. The Franciscans in New York City say thanks to God every day. One way they do this is by sharing their blessings with people.

People in New York City who need food or clothing come to the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi. The Franciscans are there every morning to greet them.

The Franciscans give each person sandwiches and something to drink and sometimes clothing to wear. Most importantly, the Franciscans share a smile and words of welcome.

Franciscans continue to share love and respect just as Jesus and Saint Francis did.

**?** What ways can you and your family share with others as Jesus calls us to do?



# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Church celebrates the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** as the second main part of the Mass. The word *eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” At Mass we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus.

## The Preparation of the Gifts

The Liturgy of the **Eucharist** begins with the preparation of the gifts. Members of the assembly bring our gifts of bread and wine to the altar. The priest tells God all our blessings come from him. We respond, “Blessed be God for ever.”

After he washes his hands, the priest invites us to pray. He then leads us in the Prayer over the Offerings. We respond, “Amen.”

### Faith Focus

What happens when the Church celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist?

### Faith Vocabulary

#### Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the second main part of the Mass. The Church does what Jesus did at the Last Supper.

#### Eucharist

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

### Activity

Think of the blessings God has given you and your family. Fill the Blessings Bucket with words and images that tell of blessings you have received. Share what is in it with your classmates. Show that you are thankful. Pray with your class, “Blessed be God for ever.”



## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer is the Church's great prayer of thanksgiving. It is during this prayer that we do what Jesus did at the Last Supper the night before he died.

*During the meal, Jesus took bread into his hands and said a blessing prayer. He broke the bread. Giving the bread to his disciples, Jesus said, "Take and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."*

*Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. Giving the cup of wine to his disciples, he said, "Drink it." They all drank from the cup. Jesus said, "This is my blood, which is poured out for many."*

BASED ON LUKE 22:17-20

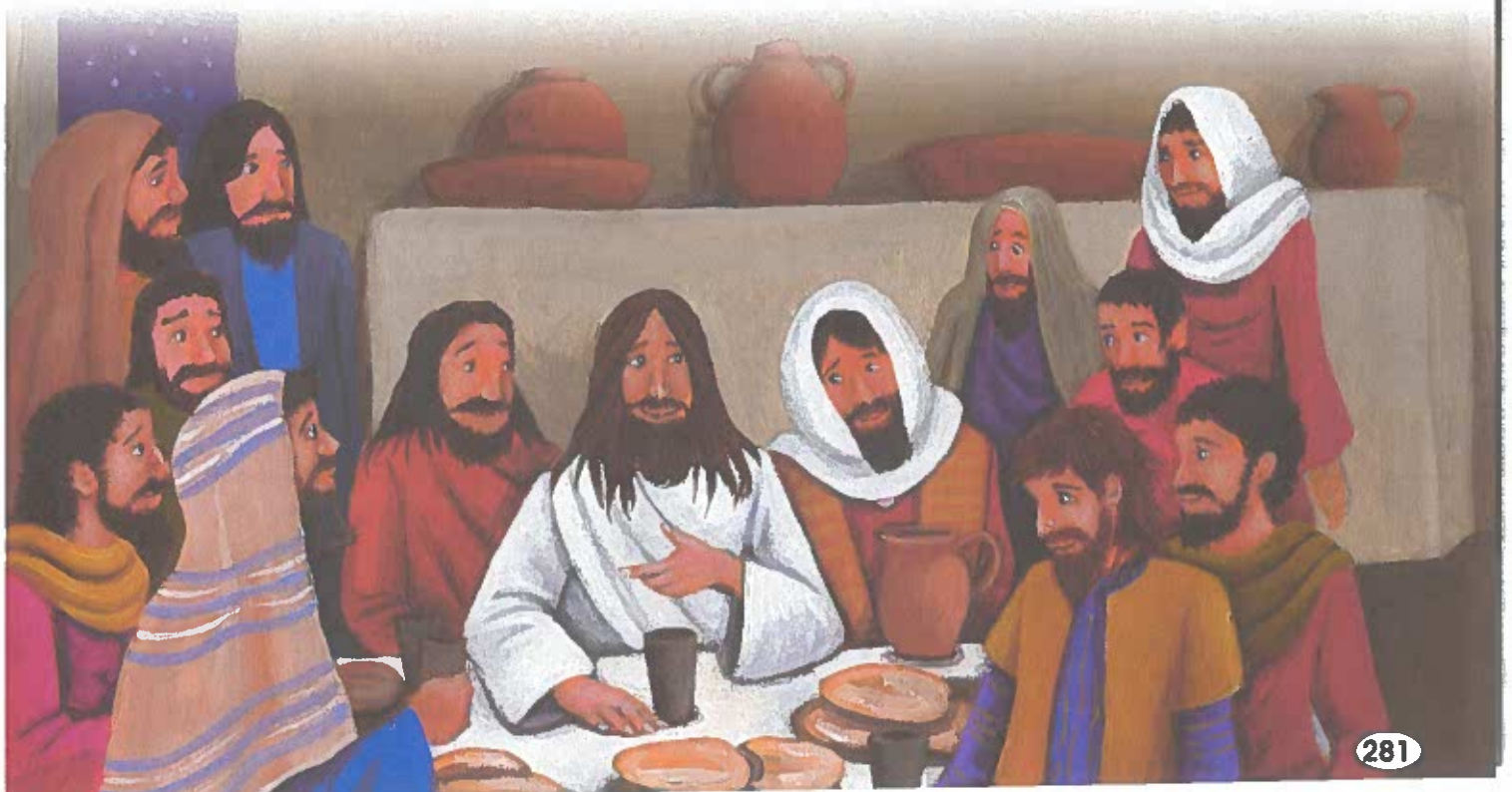
**?** Who says the words of Jesus at Mass?

## Faith-Filled People



### Saint Pius X

Pope Pius X made a rule that Catholics who are seven years old or older could receive Holy Communion. He also told Catholics that it was important that they receive Holy Communion often. The Church celebrates the feast day of Saint Pius X on August 21.



## The Consecration

The priest takes bread and says, **“TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.”**

Then he takes the cup of wine and says, **“TAKE THIS ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.”**

These are called the words of consecration. Through the words of the priest and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

## The Communion Rite

After we share a sign of peace, the priest invites us to come forward to receive Holy Communion. We receive the gift of Jesus himself. We receive strength to live as his disciples.

The Communion Rite ends with the Prayer after Communion.

## Catholics Believe



### The Holy Sacrifice

The Mass is also called the Holy Sacrifice. Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross is the greatest act of love for God the Father and for all people. At Mass, we are made sharers in the sacrifice of Jesus. We join with Jesus and show our love for God. We receive God's grace to love one another as Jesus commanded us to do.



Complete this sentence:

**The bread and wine are changed**

**to the \_\_\_\_\_ and**

**\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.**

At Mass, you receive the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ. One way you can give thanks for the blessings God gives you is by sharing your blessings with other people.

**I Follow  
Jesus**

**Activity**

## Sharing My Blessings

Think of how the Holy Spirit helps you share the many blessings you have been given. Write a prayer of thanks to God for all his blessings. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you share your blessings with others.

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This week I will share the blessings God has given me.  
I will

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**Pray, "You have blessed me, O Lord. Teach me and help me to share my blessings. Amen."**

**My  
Faith  
Choice**