



A Journey through the Mass...

Greetings brothers and sisters, as we continue on our journey together through the Mass, this week we'll look at the 'Collect' (Opening Prayer)

The term "collect" comes from the Latin word "collecta" which refers to the gathering of the people. The term has also come to be understood as referring to the opening prayer of the Liturgy, which is a 'gathering up' or 'collecting' of all the prayers of the individual members of the congregation.

The Collect is offered as the end of the Introductory Rites, inviting the community to call to mind, in the silence of their hearts, those persons or needs for which they desire to pray for, with the Celebrant of the Mass, then "collecting" all these prayer intentions together as one prayer, which is then offered up to God our Father.

Listen to what the celebrant says to us: "Let us pray". This is the moment where we are to actually bow our heads and do exactly that,...pray. The celebrant pauses for a moment, so that we can bring to mind and silently pray. While it is only the Priest who speaks and addresses this prayer to God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, all who are gathered and present are invited to unite their minds and hearts with that spoken (or chanted) prayer, offering themselves and their intentions within that prayer, up to our loving God. Then we, the community of the faithful, make the prayer our own with our communal acclamation...**"Amen"**

*Love & Blessings,
Deacon Ryan*

