



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 'Eucharistic Prayer'

The Eucharistic Prayer begins with dialogue between the priest celebrant and us, the gathered community. Here we have the center and summit of the entire celebration. The word Eucharist means **Thanksgiving**, and the Eucharistic Prayer is indeed both a prayer of thanksgiving and of petition to our Loving God. The entire community should join ourselves in awe, and in professing the great deeds of God, as well as in the offering of sacrifice that takes place upon the Altar. Here we can join through our hearts, the sacrifice of our daily lives, with the sacrifice upon the Altar. During the Eucharistic Prayer, through the action of the Holy Spirit and through the words of the priest who stands in *Persona Christi*, (who stands in the place of Christ), the presented bread and wine, will truly become the Body and Blood of Christ. Let us always listen with reverence to this great prayer, and listen to the words directed to us by the priest as he reminds us to *lift up our hearts to the Lord, and to give thanks to God*. This dialogue reminds us that we too must be spiritually engaged and fully present in the Mass, not simply passive observers, but active participants, as we truly do lift up our hearts, our thanks and our love to the Lord.

*Love & Blessings,
Deacon Ryan*

