



## ***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 "Gathering Hymn and the Greeting of the Altar".*

St. Augustine said that to sing is to pray twice. That may be why the first action of the Liturgy is a hymn that we all sing together. The singing of the Gathering Hymn is the first action we do, all of us standing together, as a worshiping community of the 'gathered' faithful. It is our way of saying, "Yes God, we are all here together, and all of us are ready to pray now."

Upon processing in and entering the sanctuary, the priest and deacon reverence the altar with a profound bow, and then as an additional expression of veneration, the priest and deacon then kiss the Altar. These acts of veneration are done to give reverence too, and to show a deep love and respect to the Altar, which is the place where the sacrifice of the Mass is about to take place.

Whenever we enter the pews, or we cross in front of the Altar, we should always remember that the reverence we show by bowing, is actually an action and feeling of deep respect, love and awe given to something so Sacred, and how our true reverence flows out of a relationship of the loving union that God has with us, His children.

*Love & Blessings,  
Deacon Ryan*



