



### *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 'Preparation of the Gifts / Prayer over the Offerings'*

At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the gifts which will become Christ's Body and Blood are brought up to the Altar. Bread and Wine being the same elements that Jesus took into His own hands at the Last Supper. The offerings should be presented by representatives of the faithful, as they are representing all of us, as one community of the gathered faithful. As the offertory procession takes place, it is always suitable to be accompanied by a hymn, which can be looked at as our own personal offering of sung prayers to the Lord as the Gifts are being processed up. Once the offerings are presented to the Celebrant of the Mass, and they make their way to the Altar, you'll see the deacon or priest mix a little bit of water with the wine, this has a spiritual significance for us, as it symbolizes both the divinity and the humanity of Christ. You'll then see the priest wash his hands as an expression of his desire to be spiritually cleansed and made worthy to consecrate the Mass in *Persona Christi* (in the Person of Christ). Once the offerings are prepared upon the Altar, the Prayer over the Offerings then concludes the Preparation of the Gifts, as we the faithful, uniting ourselves, take our own place within that great prayer, with our communal acclamation ~ **Amen**.

*Love & Blessings,  
Deacon Ryan*

