

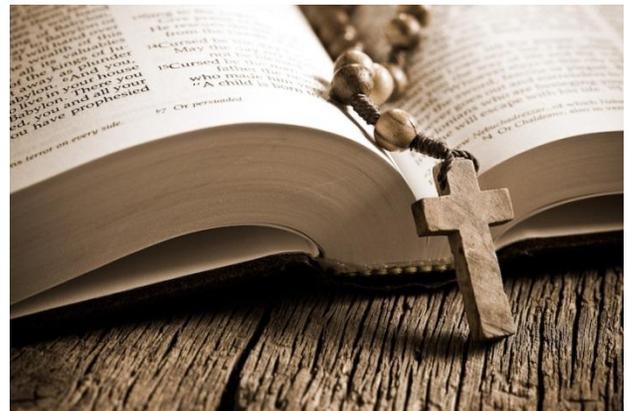
Call to Celebrate

Chapter 4-We Listen

Theme: The Liturgy of the Word is when we listen to God's Word, the Bible. It is when we hear readings from the Old Testament, we sing or chant a Psalm, we hear a part from the New Testament, and we hear from one of the four Gospels. We take time to reflect on the meaning of these words and how they apply to our own lives and those in our community.

Doctrinal Content

After the Act of Penance, the Kyrie "Lord Have Mercy", we move on to the Gloria. The Gloria tells the story of Jesus Christ, summing up his saving mission, from his birth to his glorious ascension into heaven. There is Biblical background to the Gloria (Luke 2:14, John 1:14-15, John 1:20, Isaiah 53:7-12, and Mark 16:19). After we give Glory to God, the Collect takes place. The Collect, collects or gathers together the intentions of the community.



The Liturgy of the Word is comprised of readings from Scripture. The first reading is generally from the Old Testament, with texts typically chosen for their connection with the Gospel reading. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states the Old Testament is still important because it is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value for the Old Covenant has never been revoked. We must read and hear the Old Testament in light of the Christ crucified and risen. The Responsorial Psalm is praising, thanking or calling out to God. It is really set up in an ancient practice which has roots in the Bible. The Psalm is read or sung, and we respond. There are other parts to the Mass with a similar structure.

The second reading is used for Sundays and solemnities. They are chosen independently of the first reading and Gospel, but sometimes correspond to the themes of a particular season. Finally, the Liturgy of the Word reaches a climactic moment in the proclamation of the Gospel. It is distinctly set off by standing, singing Alleluia, carrying the Book of Gospels, and doing the sign of the cross over our heads, hearts and lips. The homily, or "explanation" in Greek is used to describe the priest's or bishop's explanation of and expounding upon the biblical texts proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word. It has its roots in the early Church and in the Scriptures themselves.

Finally, the creed is recited. This is a retelling of God's salvation history. For further information on the history of the Creed, please go to <https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/apostles-creed>. In the concluding part of the Liturgy of the Word, we respond by presenting our petitions to God through the Prayer of the Faithful. Here, we intercede for the Church, for those in authority, for those in need, and for the salvation of all people. This of course, is also a biblical practice as shown in Acts 12:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, and 2 Corinthians 1:11.

Parent/Child Activity

1. Start with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Jesus, thank you for the gift of each other and the time we have together.
Help us to grow in your love, so that we can serve you and others with a big heart.
Help us not to worry about what has to be done or finished before tomorrow.
Let us rest in you.
Amen.

2. Read the Mass for Children booklet pages 6-14, together.
3. Play the sequence of the Liturgy of the Word card game together until your child has mastered the order. Have fun. Give a prize to the winner of the game.

For 2-4 players. Shuffle cards and the dealer deals out 4 cards to each player. The dealer puts cards down in the middle of the table, turns over the top card, and places it beside the deck. From the cards in his/her hand, the dealer must place the next card in the sequence of the sequence of the Liturgy of the Word on the top of the card facing up. If he/she does not have the proper card, he must draw a card from the deck. Play moves clockwise. If the deck runs out, play moves to the next player clockwise and the game continues. The first player to run out of cards wins.