



ARCHDIOCESE  
*of* MILWAUKEE

***A Vision for the Future:  
Evangelization and the Sunday Mass***

**January 2016**



## Proclaim Christ *and* Make Disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church.

ignite • renew • energize • ignite • renew • energize • ignite • renew • energize • ignite • renew • energize

January 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, our first efforts of Synod implementation are focused, most appropriately, on the pastoral priority of “Evangelization and the Sunday Mass.”

As Pope Francis teaches, these two areas are actually intertwined as the one reality at the heart of our faith: “The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 24).

The Sunday Mass is the preeminent place for us to encounter Jesus and grow as disciples. We experience the sacrifice of Calvary and, in response, are called to surrender our hearts and practice a life of sacrificial service.

And the Sunday Mass sends us on a mission of evangelization. The Christ we encounter is the Christ we are sent to proclaim as we embark upon the Church’s essential mission of making disciples.

It is my fervent hope that you and your leaders make a serious commitment to digest and implement the “Guiding Principles” articulated in this document.

We need a culture change, both within our parishes and in the culture at large, so that Sunday Mass is given primacy of place. As this document asserts, this can only happen if we prepare properly for worship, make our parishes centers of abounding welcome to all, and walk with our people toward deepening faith.

When these “Guiding Principles” are implemented in creative and ongoing ways, we will strengthen our central identity as a Church. We are Disciples of Christ, and in the celebration of Mass, we are fed through the Eucharist, so that we may go forth to make disciples at home, at work, and in the larger community. The very heart of Catholicism is “Evangelization and the Sunday Mass”!

With assurance of prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki**  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

**A Vision for the Future:  
Evangelization and the Sunday Mass**

**Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Mission Statement**

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through his saving death and resurrection by calling, forming and sending disciples to go and make new disciples.

As a people, we are called to encounter Jesus and grow as disciples through the sacramental life of the Church.

## Shaping Sunday

We have seen the statistics:

- Fewer than 30% of Catholics attend Mass regularly (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate)
- Roughly 10% of Americans are “former Catholics” (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate)
- 71% of Catholics who leave for Protestant churches do so because their spiritual needs were not being met (Pew Research Center)
- One-third of young adults describe themselves as having no religious affiliation at all (Pew Research Center)

These statistics have been worsening for decades.

*Why do we care?*

We care because we are disciples of Jesus Christ. We care because 2,000 years ago Jesus gave us this Church, his own body. Most of all, we care because Jesus cares, deeply, about every single person in our society.

*Nevertheless, the statistics are overwhelming. What can we possibly do?*

We can do only one thing: follow Jesus.

We begin by paying attention to what Jesus did. Jesus concentrated all his human and divine power in one geographical location. He preached, prayed, healed, forgave, ate, sang, wept and sacrificed. He accompanied sinners and showed them the fullness of God.

Now is the time to imitate Jesus. And the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is the place, our very own mission territory. Here and now we join with our brothers and sisters in proclaiming that Jesus saved us through his Cross and Resurrection.

We may struggle with lives already very busy, but doing what Jesus did will bring us joy—real, profound, and permanent happiness.

## Guiding Principles

Doing what Jesus did is discipleship. Each and every person in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is called to discipleship, to the long, hard work of changing our Church culture so all Catholics look forward to Sunday Mass. Together, we can ignite, renew, and energize our Sunday celebrations.

To begin our work, we must take a fresh look at Sunday worship in every parish in the Archdiocese. Focusing on the Sunday Mass has two benefits: 1) We begin where the first disciples did after Jesus ascended into heaven. Those disciples gathered together, in community. Sunday Mass is the very best place for all Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholics to gather together as modern disciples; 2) We address the distressing statistics about people avoiding Mass. Making Mass our top evangelistic priority means we're aiming for the "source and summit" of Christian prayer to touch all our brothers and sisters.

As we seek to strengthen the Sunday experience for all who come to the Church — parishioners, seekers, and unbelievers alike—three guiding principles encourage us:

1. SUNDAY IS OUR DAY | Preparing for Worship
2. HOSPITALITY IS OUR JOY | Welcoming All the Children of God
3. COMPANIONSHIP IS OUR CALL | Growing in the Faith

## 1. SUNDAY IS OUR DAY | Preparing for Worship

“Yes, I went to the assembly and I celebrated the Lord’s Supper with my brothers and sisters, because I am a Christian.”

-A martyr of Abitina (Africa, 3<sup>rd</sup> century)

John 20:20 says, “The disciples rejoiced when they saw the risen Lord.” Alleluia! Sunday is the day of Christ’s resurrection and our Christian day of worship. Sunday is the Lord’s day, which he freely gives to us. We know we belong to Christ when we take ownership of our holy day. The very first Christians observed the Lord’s Day; early Christians died for it; we modern Christians get to reclaim it!

In *Dies Domini*, St. John Paul II writes, “For the Christian, Sunday is above all an Easter celebration, wholly illumined by the glory of the Risen Christ” (8). On this day, “the faithful are called to rest not only *as* God rested, but to rest *in* the Lord, bringing the entire creation to him, in praise and thanksgiving, intimate as a child and friendly as a spouse” (13).

For Christians, every Sunday is an opportunity for intimacy, friendliness, and joy. Sunday is our day to leave behind weekday routines and rejoice together in the risen Christ. In Scripture, the Acts of the Apostles describes the very first Christian community gathering on the Lord’s Day to dedicate themselves to “the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (2:42).

One challenge that marks today’s secular culture is individualism. As a contrast, the Church offers the Eucharist as a safe harbor where individuals are offered the gift of God, someone larger than themselves, met within a praying community. The Eucharist, as the action of Christ and the People of God, is a uniquely communitarian reality.

Nourished in community by the Word and the Eucharist, we have the grace to make every Sunday outstanding. Our parishes can raise the standard of excellence in liturgical music, message, and ministries by acknowledging the primacy of worship.

### Practical ideas for enhancing Sunday, the day of worship

#### Liturgical Music

*“Within the gathered assembly, the role of the congregation is especially important. The full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else, for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit” (Sacrosanctum Concilium 14)."*

- *Sing to the Lord 11*

- Encourage all the faithful—including children and young adults—to achieve the “fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium 14*)

- By providing orders of worship and, when called for, verbal cues from the presider so parishioners and visitors may participate confidently in all aspects of the liturgy
- By incorporating musical treasures “new and old” (see Matt 13:52), regardless of genre
- By considering the traditions and cultures of the community gathered
- By choosing singable hymns that are familiar to the people, or new hymns introduced carefully and deliberately through repetition
- Dedicate time at least once a year to form all liturgical musicians, helping them to grow in sensitivity to the pastoral needs of the people in the pews (the Archdiocese can help with formation resources and space)
- Adjust parish budgets and stewardship efforts to dedicate ample resources
  - To attract, retain, and form high quality pastoral musicians
  - To install and/or maintain excellent sound systems and instruments in every parish

### **Message**

*The homily has special importance due to its Eucharistic context: it surpasses all forms of catechesis as the supreme moment in the dialogue between God and His people, which lead up to sacramental communion.*

**-Evangelii Gaudium 137**

- Ensure that preachers have time to pursue continuing formation in homiletics
- Assist priests and deacons in self-assessment by providing audio and visual recording equipment
- Adjust parish budgets and schedules to dedicate ample resources to the Sunday message
  - To allow presiders time to prepare excellent homilies that are relevant to the lives of parishioners
  - To invite liturgical ministers and parishioners to reflect on the upcoming Sunday scriptures
- Consider establishing a parish theme each week, taken from the homily, to be shared on social media, on the parish website, and in the bulletin

### **Ministries**

*But man's relationship with God also demands times of explicit prayer, in which the relationship becomes an intense dialogue, involving every dimension of the person. "The Lord's Day" is the day of this relationship par excellence when men and women raise their song to God and become the voice of all creation.*

**-Dies Domini 15**

### **In the Parish**

- Resolve, as a parish or region, to eliminate all non-liturgical activities on Sundays, especially during Mass times

- Consider reducing the number of Sunday Masses offered to preserve the energy of priests and ministers and to maximize participation from the full pews
- Dedicate time at least once a year to form all liturgical ministers properly
- Train parishioners to begin a prayer ministry for one another after all Masses (the Archdiocese can help with this)
- Host a Question & Answer forum after all Masses once a month to allow priests, deacons and/or trained laity to catechize seekers

### **In the Home**

- Pray before the Sunday meal, as Jesus prayed before the Last Supper
- Create special times of family prayer by reading the psalm or Gospel of the day, or by saying together the Rosary or other favorite prayer
- Go on a pilgrimage to a shrine or basilica
- Perform acts of service
- Celebrate baptism anniversaries or Church feast days with favorite family treats and songs

## **2. HOSPITALITY IS OUR JOY | Welcoming All the Children of God**

"If a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, 'Take a seat here, please', while you say to the poor man, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?"

**-James 2:2-4**

Jesus came to save us, to offer us eternal life. We show others the love of Jesus when we welcome, accompany, teach, heal, and reconcile. Offering genuine hospitality helps us attract and retain parishioners who will enliven our parishes.

God alone provides the joy and love we need to welcome all who seek. We turn to prayer, then, to examine how open our hearts are, how hospitable are parishes are. We ask the Lord to show us challenging, new ways to extend a genuinely warm welcome to strangers.

Jesus blesses our desire to leave the ninety-nine behind and go out in search of the lost sheep.

### **Practical ideas for enhancing hospitality in our parishes**

- Say "welcome!" and "yes" repeatedly, and as often as possible, to
  - Families
  - Persons with disabilities
  - Strangers
  - People who are homeless

- Outsiders
- New volunteers
- To modern worship aids (tablets, smart phone apps, etc.)
- “Non-members” who have been away from the Church but who are seeking funerals and the sacraments, including Baptism, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick
- Train parish secretaries as knowledgeable, cheerful “first responders”
  - Emphasize the need for a warm and joyful welcome when responding to requests for weddings, funerals, and Baptisms
  - Eliminate voice mail menus so callers are greeted by a person
  - Consider changing parish office hours to include evening and weekend access
- Rededicate and retrain ushers as “parish ambassadors” who rejoice to welcome churchgoers of all varieties
- Create pew cards with a warm welcome to families on one side and space for children to color on the other
- Institute “name tag Sunday” once a month to encourage community
- Establish an information kiosk and staff it with friendly parishioners before and after all Masses so seekers can find answers to parish-related questions
- Extend an invitation to visitors and seekers that they are welcome to talk with a designated person (*e.g.* a hospitality ambassador) after Mass to receive more information about the Catholic Church and the parish
- Consider joyful, evangelistic ways to silence cell phones (*e.g.*, ask parishioners to text a friend, inviting them to Mass next week, before silencing the phone)
- Keep church doors unlocked more often
- Arrange to keep the hospitality flowing throughout the summer when many people “shop” for a parish
- See through the eyes of a stranger
  - Imagine what kind of greeting and treatment non-members encounter when they enter your church
  - Allow parish staff and members to brainstorm hospitality strategies for every element of Sunday worship
    - Visiting the parish website (very often the first point of contact)
    - Calling the parish office
    - Parking
    - Using restrooms
    - Finding a pew
    - Following along with the liturgy and its music
    - Recognizing the universal Catholic liturgy and its rubrics
    - Requiring medical assistance
    - Caring for children and nursing babies
    - Exiting the church
    - Wondering what more there is to parish life

### 3. COMPANIONSHIP IS OUR CALL | Growing in the Faith

“The Eucharist is the full realization of the worship which humanity owes to God, and it cannot be compared to any other religious experience.”

-*Dies Domini* 81

Ultimately, God is a mystery. Three Persons yet one God, the Trinity is a relationship. That is how God works: through relationship.

On June 25, 2014, Pope Francis discussed Christians who act like “free agents,” not identifying with or committing to a parish: “There are those who believe they can maintain a personal, direct and immediate relationship with Jesus Christ outside the communion and the mediation of the Church. These are dangerous and harmful temptations.”

We need each other, and we need the Church. Humans thrive on healthy relationships. Even as we welcome newcomers to our parishes, we can continue to deepen our familiar relationships, especially with Jesus and his Church.

“Deepening our relationship with Jesus and his Church” sounds grandiose, but it can be surprisingly straightforward. Like other relationships, our bond with Jesus and one another grows as we learn and spend time together. In the context of the Sunday Mass, this means learning about the liturgy and entering wholeheartedly into its prayer.

#### **Practical ideas for enhancing companionship and growth in our pews**

- Restructure RCIA and other adult formation programs to embrace a mentorship model rather than a classroom model
- Provide ongoing opportunities for people who want to learn more about their faith (*e.g.* youth groups, Bible studies, small faith sharing groups and Catholic ID)
- Provide welcoming community events for various demographics in the parish (*e.g.* youth, young adults, cultural groups), always inviting them joyfully to Mass
- Continue relationships with parishioners (and non-parishioners) after parish programs end
  - Invite those in RCIA and sacramental preparation to consider returning to accompany the next group as sponsors, mentors, or in other leadership positions
  - Reach out regularly to couples after Matrimony and parents after Baptism
- Consider initiatives that pair older adults or teens with young families who could use a little help during Mass
- Consider going door-to-door, or creating ways of inviting those within the parish neighborhood to Mass
- Provide opportunities to learn more about the Mass
  - Take advantage of the homily to provide insight into the Mass.
    - The homily breaks open not only the scriptures, but also the teaching of the Church about how to live the Word of God in daily life. The

recently released *Homiletic Directory* models this purposeful, practical approach by beautifully connecting every single Sunday celebration to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

- Note: “Teaching Masses” are difficult to do prayerfully and well. Many of the resources listed below are most effective when shared outside of the context of the Mass.
- To support and accompany weekend homilies about the Mass, many excellent teaching materials exist for both adults and children. They are listed below with summaries, available discounts, and suggestions for use.

## **Mass Teaching Resources**

### **Videos for Adults**

#### ***Altaration***

Augustine Institute

<http://ascensionpress.com/products?utf8=%E2%9C%93&keywords=Altaration%3A+The+Mystery+of+the+Mass+Revealed>

This is a new video based program designed specifically for teenagers, but can be used with various ages. It also includes three DVDs, student workbook and leader’s guide. We would especially recommend two video segments that could be used for teaching about the Mass: Session 3 – “The Mystery Revealed” – Segment 2 which goes through the mystery and meaning of the Mass in about 10 minutes, and Session 5 – “The ‘Whys’ Behind the ‘Whats’” – a one hour video that explains the Mass.

#### ***A Biblical Walk through the Mass***

Dr. Edward Sri

Ascension Press

<http://ascensionpress.com/t/category/study-programs/the-mass/biblical-walk-through-the-mass>

This is a good video based series that includes three DVDs, a book (about 150 pages), student workbook and leader’s guide. If you just want a short summary on the various aspects of the Mass, we would recommend seeing the “Session Talk Notes” in the Leader’s guide that presents a page summary and bullet points about that aspect of the Mass (You can order the Leader’s Guide and not the full set of materials if you wish). There are four sessions, and each “Session Talk Notes” is just over a page long.

#### ***A New Mission for a Missionary People***

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

<http://www.archmil.org/Synod2014/Videos.htm>

Video connecting us to Jesus’s Great Commission to the disciples and the new mission statement for the archdiocese: “Proclaim Christ and Make Disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church.”

***A New Mission for a Missionary People*** (with subtitles)

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

<http://www.archmil.org/Synod2014/Videos.htm>

Video connecting us to Jesus's Great Commission to the disciples and the new mission statement for the archdiocese: "Proclaim Christ and Make Disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church."

***Mass – The Heart of the Matter***

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

<http://www.archmil.org/Synod2014/Videos.htm>

The powerful true life story of Joe Smith and Jackie Piano and how their conversion is related to the power of the Mass. Evangelization and the Sunday Mass is one of the five priority areas the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is focusing on related to the Synod priorities and living out the new archdiocesan mission statement.

***Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained***

Augustine Institute

<http://symboloncatholic.org/>

A video series developed by the Augustine Institute to explain the various aspects of the Catholic faith, and how they fit together. While an excellent overall series on Catholicism, Part II offers videos on "A Walk through the Mass," "The Sacraments," and "The Eucharist."

**Books for Adults**

***Catholic Update Guide to the Mass***

Mary Carol Kendzia (ed.)

Ligiouri

A shorter, 48-page guide to the Mass, answering many questions, including "Why do I need to go every Sunday," "Why can't non-Catholics receive the Eucharist," and "What are the differences in the parts of the Mass?" It outlines changes in the Roman Missal, and is an ideal resource for anyone who wishes to return to the practice of the Catholic faith, for those who are becoming Catholics, and for those who want to know more.

***Catholicism for Dummies***

Rev. John Trigilio Jr., and Rev. Kenneth Brighenti

For Dummies (Publisher)

This book is an easy to read and highly engaging introduction to Catholicism for Catholics and non-Catholics. Included in its contents are discussions of Catholic liturgy, devotions and sacraments.

***In the Midst of Our Storms: Opening Ourselves to Christ in the Liturgy***

Roc O'Connor, SJ

Liturgy Training Publications

Reflecting on years of parish ministry experience, Roc O'Connor offers an exciting approach to Eucharistic spirituality, one that encourages readers to explore their personal encounters with Christ in the liturgy. Through this Liturgical Contemplative Practice, O'Connor guides readers in reflection on the resistances and vulnerabilities that can affect one's relationship with God, ultimately inviting worshippers to an experience of honest encounter with the Real Presence of Christ.

### ***Rediscover Catholicism***

Matthew Kelly

Dynamic Catholic

*Rediscover Catholicism* was first published as *Rediscovering Catholicism* in 2002. Written by evangelist and author Matthew Kelly, it spent more than seven years (364 weeks) consecutively on the Catholic Book Publishers Association bestsellers list before it was first used in the Dynamic Catholic Parish Book Program. In 2010, a revised and expanded version was published under the new title *Rediscover Catholicism*. Other than the Bible, it is the bestselling Catholic book in America ever. Chapter Fourteen, in particular, focuses on the Mass, and encourages the reader to prepare him/herself for Sunday Mass, using a Mass journal, and offers a "quick walk" through the Mass. The book offers a modern look at our busy lives and incorporating our Catholic faith more deeply into our lives. Copies can be obtained inexpensively through Kelly's website, [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com).

### **Bulletin Inserts**

#### ***Dialogues of the Mass/Los dialogos en la Misa***

\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Michael Kwaterna, OSB

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

This series guides parishioners through various ritual dialogues that structure the celebration of Mass, exploring biblical background and their function in the liturgical celebration.

#### ***Give Thanks and Praise: A Popular Explanation of the Mass/Den gracias y albanza***

\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Lawrence J. Johnson

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

In thinking about the way the celebration of the Mass proceeds, it's easy to recognize the two major parts, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but how do all the other things we do fit in and what role do they play in the unfolding celebration? This 10-part presentation of the structure of the Mass will guide the members of the liturgical assembly to a more conscious participation. A simplified version of the material in *The Mystery of the Faith*.

### ***Joining Together in Prayer***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Andrew Ciferni, O. Praem. and Melissa Musick Nussbaum

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

A series of short poetic, mystagogical reflections on the *Gloria*, Creed, *Sanctus*, Memorial Acclamation, Our Father and *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) as presented in the new translation.

### ***Liturgical Participation of God's People Electronic Resource/Participacion liturgica del pueblo de Dios***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

According to the Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (#14), the very nature of liturgy demands full, conscious and active participation of the faithful in liturgical celebrations. This pamphlet presents essential points from the *Constitution* on the importance of full and active participation and the ways in which this takes place.

### ***Liturgy of the Word/La liturgia de la palabra***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

The 2008 Synod of Bishops focused on the place of the Word of God in the life of the Church. Its introductory document says, "This is the Synod's underlying purpose and primary goal, namely, to fully encounter the Word of God in Jesus the Lord, present in the sacred Scriptures and the Eucharist." This provides an occasion for us to strengthen our grasp of the vital importance of the Liturgy of the word in our liturgical worship and this three-part bulletin insert series will help.

### ***Mystery We Celebrate/El misterio que celebramos***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Rev. Lawrence E. Mick

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

In light of the third edition of the Roman Missal and its new General Instruction, this series of inserts guides the reader to a deeper appreciation of the mystery celebrated and the underlying realities involved in our participation in the Mass.

### ***Reverence***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Melissa Musick Nussbaum

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

With all the rush and agitation of our lives, it is easy to lose sight of the attentiveness that reverence for the Holy requires. This series of contemplative reflections on our experience

of participating in the Eucharist will inspire all those who participate in the celebration of the liturgy. Six bulletin inserts.

### ***Sacrifice of the Mass and our Call to Mission/El sacrificio de la Misa y nuestro llamado a mission***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Edward Foley, O.F.M., Cap.

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

In this six-part series, Fr. Edward Foley presents the distinctive elements that distinguish the Mass from Communion services and in doing so explores a rich understanding of the action of the Eucharist.

### ***Take and Eat/Tomen y coman***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

“When you approach Holy Communion, make the left hand into a throne for the right, which will receive the King.” Thus did St. Cyril of Jerusalem describe the proper way of receiving Communion. This one-page bulletin insert on receiving Communion in the hand reflects on the significance of this ancient prayerful gesture.

### ***Three Minute Liturgical Catechesis/Catequesis liturgica en tres minutos***

*\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship*

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Rev. Lawrence E. Mick

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

Originally developed for the Year of the Eucharist, these 26 reflections going through the parts of the Mass are short enough to be read out before Mass or during the announcements, or included in your parish bulletin.

## **Programs for Adults**

### ***Living the Eucharist***

Paulist Press/Paulist Evangelization Ministries

<http://www.livingtheeucharist.org/>

*Living the Eucharist* is a parish-based program designed to help revitalize parish life and spirituality through a more profound experience of Sunday Mass. It helps the entire parish—adults, teens, and families—grow in their Catholic faith and live more fully as disciples of Jesus. *Living the Eucharist* runs during Lent for three years. Parishioners can take part in adult and teen faith-sharing groups, family activities, devotional and catechetical Lenten readings, and a prayer campaign. The multi-media program materials are comprehensive, proven, and easy to use. Ongoing support keeps your parish on the right track throughout the program.

## Videos for Children

### ***The Greatest Miracle***

PG Movie

From the Producer of *For Greater Glory*, this is a beautiful, animated story about the power and impact of the grace of God, and of unseen spiritual influences and events, in our lives, especially in Church during our participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It focuses on three characters and their guardian angels, and how we all have the freedom to choose to do good or evil, to pray, and the consequences from our choices. It shows the great spiritual power of the sacrament of Confession, and beautifully reveals the meaning and importance of each aspect of the Mass, our greatest prayer and miracle, through which we share in such close "communion" with almighty God by receiving Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

### ***The Eucharist for Little Children***

Vision Video

Jesus said, Let the children come to me. - Mark 10:14. These simple words inspire us to lead our little children to the Lord Jesus. And an excellent way to do that is through the sacrament of the Eucharist. In *The Eucharist for Little Children*, your children will begin to understand the real presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. They will encounter Jesus in the solemnity of the Mass, the quiet of adoration and the splendor of a Corpus Christi Procession. Your children will also experience the Lord through the traditional beauty of the Church, inspiring music and the vibrant spirit of our DVD host Jennifer Naimo. Jennifer brings her Broadway talent to a new dimension in this ministry to little children. Features: Traditional and original sacred music, how the bread and wine are made for the Eucharist, why Father wears those colorful vestments and why he dresses like Jesus Christ, how to pray in Eucharistic adoration, and by seeing the example of other little children, how to behave in church.

### **Brother Francis Video, Episode 6: The Mass**

<http://brotherfrancisonline.com/episode-6-the-mass/>

Come with Brother Francis as he celebrates the life-changing power of the Mass.

#### **This episode includes:**

- "The Celebration of the Mass" – an animated representation of what happens during the Mass and our encounter with Jesus as we celebrate this wonderful gift of God!
- "With a Heart of Praise" – a moving prayer-song that expresses our gratitude to God.
- "The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican" – a moving, animated depiction of Jesus' teaching on humility and forgiveness.

Rich in instruction and inspiration, "Brother Francis: The Mass" is a unique way of helping children experience the presence of Christ as they attend Mass.

## Books for Children

### ***The Caterpillar that Came to Church: A Story of the Eucharist/LaOrunga Que Fue a Misa: Un Cuentro de la Eucharistia***

Irene H. Hooker and Susan Andrews Brindle

This unique and appealing book for ages four to six has text in both English and Spanish. When a curious caterpillar tumbles out of a tree, she is introduced to the wondrous events surrounding the Eucharist. A delightful first introduction to Holy Communion.

### ***A Child's Missal***

Patmos (author)

This Child's Missal takes an unusual approach to bringing children and parents alike into the mysteries of the Mass. In a harmonious mix of artwork, photos, Scripture, and text, it presents the story of how Christ's life and the Mass are one. Going beyond the obvious connections of the Mass with the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, it shows how the rich symbolism of the Mass touches upon the rest of Christ's life. Soon enough we realize how far reaching were Christ's words when he said of the Mass, "Do this in memory of me".

## Children's Worship Bulletins

### **A Reproducible Children's Bulletin that You Can Personalize**

[www.childrensbulletins.com](http://www.childrensbulletins.com)

"When children attend church with their parents, they are building lifelong traditions in faith. With children's bulletins, kids learning about the teachings of the Bible in an active and fun way, without disrupting the church service."

### ***Gifts from Our Father: A Catholic Prayer Book for Kids***

Tom Wall and illustrator Martin Whitmore

Aquinas Ventures

A fun, engaging, and comprehensive hardcover prayer book for Catholics of all ages. This book offers a truly unique collection of all things Catholic: prayers, definitions, teachings, devotions, and feast days.

### ***Magnifikid!*** (Subscription)

<https://www.magnificat.net/magnifikid/index.asp>

*MagnifiKid!* is for children between the ages of 6 and 12. Subscribers receive the issues on a monthly basis. In each month's packet, children will find a booklet of 16 color pages for each Sunday, and special issues for all major feast days, including Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, the Ascension, the Assumption and All Saints Day.

Each week *Magnifikid!* offers:

- All readings and prayers for Sunday Mass with explanations of difficult words and meanings of the rituals;
- Daily prayer adapted from the Liturgy of the Hours;
- Suggestions on how to live the entire week with the Lord ;
- Games, comics, and activities on Christian life and culture;
- A page for parents with suggestion for family prayers.

### ***Manners in God's House: First Prayers and First Missal***

Neumann Press

This book gently explains good manners and dress at home, at play and especially in church. Along with the beautiful color pictures, the book teaches the traditional prayers. With this guide, your child will learn to behave respectfully before our Lord in the Eucharist.

A necessary guide to Mass, teaches children how to behave well in church. It outlines reverent behavior for little boys and girls, with quaint pictures and an easy “9 Rules for Visitors to the King.” It provides an attractive, fully illustrated mini-missal for the Mass. It also details essential Catholic prayers, breaking them down phrase-by-phrase for easy comprehension and memorization—the perfect teaching tool to help you pass the Our Father, Hail Mary, and other indispensable prayers on to your child.

### ***My Mass Book***

Our Sunday Visitor

*My Mass Book* invites children to truly understand and celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This unique treasure book features illustrations by artist Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS, that offer visual cues to help children to participate more fully in the Mass. In addition, there is a child-sized keepsake page for personalizing, plus prayers and responses to help children develop a deeper appreciation of the Mass.

### **Treasure Box Books (series)**

Maryknoll Sisters

The Treasure Box books present a wonderful combination of fun, innocence and the Catholic Faith. They teach the Faith in a simple way, and they inspire children's hearts to love God. The pictures are truly beautiful, unlike the cartoon illustrations found in many children's books today. These books are full of Catholic doctrine, presented reverently and simply at a young child's level, in a manner to capture the child's interest and raise the heart to God. More appropriate for older children,

### ***A Walk through Our Church***

Gertrude Mueller Nelson

Paulist Press

A full-color illustrated tour of an empty church. Children learn the correct names for objects and spaces they encounter in church, along with an understanding and importance of each one as it relates to liturgy.

### ***The Weight of the Mass: A Tale of Faith***

Josephine Nobisso and Katalin Szegedi

Gingerbread House Publishing

When a poor devout widow begs for a scrap of bread from a rich faithless baker, she promises to participate in the king's wedding Mass as payment for the baker's generosity. The baker writes “One Mass” on a scrap of paper and places it on his scale to determine how much bread it is worth. To his and the entire town's surprise, nothing in the shop, not even the gigantic wedding cakes made for the king, outweighs the simple piece of paper

representing the true worth of a Mass. Luminous old-world watercolor paintings grace the interior of the book and gold foil artwork lends an air of solemnity and sacred beauty to the story.

## **Programs for Youth**

### ***For Ages Unending***

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers

This book is designed to encourage conversation among pastors, liturgists, parish worship commission members, music ministers, and youth ministers. That conversation will, in turn, address the complex challenges, faith-enriching practices, and abundant blessings of including youth in our liturgies. It will offer practical principles and proven techniques which will invite the fuller participation of our youth in the Church's liturgy, contribute to their liturgical formation, and recognize their unique contributions. *For Ages Unending* is the result of years of collaboration and dialogue among national leaders in liturgy and youth ministry. We invite you to continue the journey. English and Spanish texts are included under one cover.

## **Toys for Children**

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium supplies**

<http://www.cgsusa.org/>

<http://www.ltp.org/m-7-catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd.aspx>

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an "atrium," a room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials that they use. You may be wondering how these materials help the religious life of children? If an adult hears a beautiful passage from the Bible, the adult might take a Bible, find the passage, and read it slowly repeatedly. He or she may think deeply about the words and perhaps speak to God in a thankful or hopeful prayer. But a little child, too young to read, needs another way. In an atrium the child can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy by taking the material for that text and working with it - placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd, setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist. Older children who do read often copy parables from the Bible, lay in order written prayers from the rite of baptism, or label a long time line showing the history of the kingdom of God. To learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, obtain books or materials, please visit the above websites.

## **Lego Mass Kit**

<http://www.domesticchurchsupply.com/>

**Introducing Father Leopold: The World's Smallest Priest!** Fr. Leopold is on a mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ with minifigures everywhere. Sporting his brand new clerics and a friendly face, he is ready to preach the gospel and bring the sacraments to his people. Featuring 171 genuine LEGO® bricks, three modified bricks (his Roman collar, the sacramentary and the lectionary were printed after they left the factory) and a set of four vestments (a green chasuble for Ordinary Time, red and white for feast days, and purple for Advent and Lent) this set will provide hours of imaginative play. The included 28-page full-color instruction guide makes building the altar, ambo, credence table, presider's chair and tabernacle a snap. Put the lectionary, missal, chalice, paten, hosts, cruets and lavabo dish in place, get Fr. Leopold vested and he is ready to celebrate Mass. Congregation not included. This model is not sponsored, authorized or endorsed by the Lego Group. The design, kit assembly and instructions are a Domestic Church Supply Company exclusive. Because of the limited availability of certain Lego bricks in this set, quantities are limited. If the kit is "sold out," orders can still be placed and will be shipped once in stock.

## **Wee Believers My Mass Kit**

<http://www.catholicchild.com/WEE-BELIEVERS-MY-MASS-KIT/productinfo/20671/>

My Mass Kit is a children's version Mass kit designed for reverent play. Its design is even approved by Catholic Clergy! It consists of 12 cleanable, stuffed fabric pieces - child-friendly replicas of items used by the priest during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - packaged in a zippered canvas tote. There is an instructional booklet too, that you will want to read with your child: "The best way to use your Mass Kit" it begins, "is by watching your priest very carefully when you attend Mass. But for now, let's go through your Mass Kit together." Then page-by-page it pictures each item, describing how it is used and adding interesting facts about Mass and the Church.

This one-of-a-kind manipulative set provides an enjoyable way for children to learn about the articles used in the Mass. You can encourage respectful play by keeping My Mass Kit in a special place in your home, perhaps apart from other non-religious toys. And do not be surprised when your child invites you to act as an impromptu choir member, lector or communicant!

## **Books for Parents**

### ***The Religious Potential of the Child: Experiencing Scripture and Liturgy with Young Children***

Sofia Cavalletti, translated by Patricia Coulter and Julie Coulter

Liturgy Training Publications

This classic book describes an experience with children from ages three to six, an experience of adults and children dwelling together in the mystery of God. Known as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, this way of religious formation is profoundly biblical and

sacramental, and it is, at the same time, deeply respectful of the nature of young children, who make their way to God in freedom and joy. 'The Religious Potential of the Child' is not a 'how-to' book, complete with lesson plans and material ideas. Instead, it offers a glimpse into the religious life of the atrium, a specially prepared place for children to live out their silent request: 'Help me come closer to God by myself.' Here we can see the child's spiritual capabilities and perhaps even find in our own souls the child long burdened with religious information.

## Websites for Parents

### **CatholicMom.com**

A website that offers Mass worksheets (three age groups): [www.catholickidsbulletin.com](http://www.catholickidsbulletin.com).

### **Catholic Icing**

<http://www.catholicicing.com/>

This website offers booklets of the Mass, including beautiful photos of painting and prayers.

### **Holy Heroes**

[www.holyheroes.com](http://www.holyheroes.com)

A great resource that offers books and audio CDs.

## Official Church Documents

### *(Universal)*

#### ***Sacrosanctum Concilium (Vatican II Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)***

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19631204\\_sacrosanctum-concilium\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html)

*Sacrosanctum Concilium* as the first constitution adopted by the Council Fathers at Vatican II, and a fundamental text. In it, the Council Fathers called for full, conscious and active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy.

#### ***General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)***

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/general-instruction-of-the-roman-missal/>

The *Roman Missal, Third Edition* for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America was confirmed by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 26, 2010 (Prot. n. 1464/06/L). Proper adaptations for the United States were confirmed on July 24, 2010 (Prot. n. 577/10/L).

***(Documents from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)***

***Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Diocese of the United States of America.***

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/norms-for-holy-communion-under-both-kinds/index.cfm>

The norms, give official rules for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, composition of the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, material for Communion vessels, and other matters related to administering Holy Communion under both species.

***Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship***

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

*Sing to the Lord* provides basic guidelines for understanding the role and ministry of music in the liturgy. It echoes the call to fully active and conscious participation in the Liturgy through its sung elements.

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/index.cfm>

On the USCCB website, you will find a plethora of resources for prayer and worship, including bulletin inserts, short videos and articles related to the Mass.

**Resources for Parish Staffs**

***Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission***

Father James Mallon

Twenty-Third Publications

An engaging guide for parishes seeking to cultivate communities of discipleship and vibrant, dynamic faith. Highly acclaimed for his work with parish renewal and the New Evangelization, Fr. James Mallon shares with us the many ways for bringing our parishes to life. Through humorous and colorful stories, Mallon challenges us to rethink our models of parish life, from membership-based communities to assemblies of disciples of Jesus who proclaim and share the good news with all peoples. Accessible and engaging, *Divine Renovation* turns to the Church's many writings on evangelization and mission so as to articulate practical ways for injecting new life into our parishes. Pastors and parish ministers will be inspired by this book and turn to it for many years to come.

***Mystery of Faith: A Study of the Structural Elements of the Order of the Mass/El Misterio de Fe***

\*40% discount available if ordered through the Office for Worship

<http://www.archmil.org/offices/worship/OrderForm.htm>

Lawrence J. Johnson

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

Aimed toward leaders. A classic! This is a practical guide to each part of the Mass, offering historical development, theological reflection, relevant documents and discussion questions. Newly revised in light of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal.

***Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter***

Father Michael White and Tom Corcoran

Ave Maria Press

Drawing on the wisdom gleaned from thriving mega-churches and innovative business leaders while anchoring their vision in the Eucharistic center of Catholic faith, Fr. Michael White and lay associate Tom Corcoran present the compelling and inspiring story to how they brought their parish back to life. *Rebuilt* is a story of stopping everything and changing focus. When their parish reached a breaking point, Fr. Michael White and lay associate Tom Corcoran asked themselves how they could make the Church *matter* to Catholics, and they realized the answer was at the heart of the Gospel. Their faithful response not only tripled their weekend Mass attendance, but also yielded increased giving, flourishing ministries, and a vibrant, solidly Catholic spiritual revival. White and Corcoran invite all Catholic leaders to share the vision, borrow their strategies, and rebuild their own parishes. They offer a wealth of guidance for anyone with the courage to hear them.

***The Amazing Parish/The Sunday Experience***

<http://amazingparish.org/sunday-experience>

Founded in 2014, The Amazing Parish movement seeks to provide resources to pastors and parish leaders so they can create a thriving parish life. Created by well-known Catholic leaders, such as Matthew Kelly, Pat Lencioni, Chris Stefanick, Jeff Cavins, Curtis Martin, Father Michael White and Father James Mallon, The Amazing Parish movement seeks to help Catholic leaders build amazing parishes. This particular section of their website is devoted to “The Sunday Experience,” and focusing on helping parishes focus on what people encounter when they arrive at a parish on the weekend. In this section of their website, leaders offer creative ideas and suggestions.