

## **THE EUCHARISTIC MEAL**

The basic order of worship inherited from the Lord himself and from the Apostles, is the same today in the Catholic Church as it has been. It consists of four parts ---

- The Lord took bread and wine
- He said the prayer of blessing
- He broke the bread
- And gave the broken bread and one cup to his followers

Today, two thousand years later as a parish family we too ---

- Take the bread and wine
- We pray the prayers of thanksgiving, the Eucharistic Prayer
- We see the bread broken as we pray the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world
- And we share in the one bread, as if from the hand of the Lord himself, in Holy Communion

This Eucharistic Meal we celebrate is an act of remembering God our Father and Christ His Son. It is a way of remembering that just as Jesus at the Last Supper was committing himself to the Father for the sake of the world he loved, so too, we give ourselves anew to God, our families and neighbors at each Mass we celebrate.

When we gather in His memory each week around His Word and Altar, His Book and Table, we are called to listen to his Word and fully join with all people in giving thanks and praise to God.

To the degree we do, the Mass can always give us new insights, new directions, new relationships with one another and a new occasion for meeting Christ. To the degree we fail, there is danger of seeing the Mass as a boring ritual, when in fact it is always a new invitation to celebrate as a FAMILY the many blessings God has given to us.