

## **# 9 – September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Preparation of the Gifts and Prayer Over the Offerings**

After the Prayers of the Faithful, we now enter the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with a brief part called the Preparation of the Gifts. There will be very few changes in the revised translation.

Most of this part of the Mass happens while the community sings a hymn. There are no changes to the instructions governing this part of the rite. Once the priest receives the gifts of bread and wine, he recites the prayers of praise inaudibly. The prayer recited by the priest during this time is slightly revised. In cases when the priest prays aloud, the response of the community remains the same: “Blessed be God forever.”

There are several more prayers recited by the priest or deacon during this time of the Mass, but we would probably not notice the difference since they are uttered quietly.

After the priest washes his hands, he invites the community to pray. The invitation is slightly different. The priest will say, “Pray brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.”

The current formula, which says, “our sacrifice,” is expanded to “my sacrifice and yours.” This is in keeping with the Latin text, which indicates that each member of the community is offering a sacrifice in keeping with his or her priestly role; however, each participates in the one sacrifice of Christ.

After the priest’s invitation, everyone stands and responds in one voice, “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.” Notice that the word “holy” is added in the revision for in spite of our personal disposition, we belong to “one holy, catholic, and apostolic” church.

The Preparation of the Gifts concludes with the Prayer over the Offering to which we respond, “Amen.”