

# The Importance of the Mass of the Lord's Supper

'Celebrating the Gift of Love, Service, and the Eucharist'

The Mass of the Lord's Supper, celebrated on the evening of Holy Thursday, marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum, the most sacred time in the Church's liturgical year. From a Catholic perspective, this liturgy is rich in meaning and significance—it invites us to reflect on the Eucharist, priesthood, and Christian service, all instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.

## 1. The Institution of the Eucharist

At the heart of this Mass is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the moment when Jesus gave Himself to us in the form of bread and wine. As He said:

***“This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.”*** (Luke 22:19)

The Last Supper was the first Mass. Each time we gather around the altar, we participate in this same offering, made present again through the mystery of the Eucharist. Holy Thursday calls us to renew our awe and gratitude for this incredible gift of Christ's real presence.

## 2. The Institution of the Priesthood

At the Last Supper, Christ also instituted the ministerial priesthood, giving His apostles the command to “do this in memory of me.” The Mass of the Lord's Supper is a moment to pray for our priests and give thanks for their role in continuing Christ's sacrificial love through the sacraments.

## 3. The Call to Humble Service

The Washing of the Feet, a unique feature of this liturgy, recalls how Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, saying:

***“I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”*** (John 13:15)

This powerful gesture reminds us that true discipleship is rooted in humility, love, and service. We are called not just to receive Christ, but to become Christ for others—especially the poor, the vulnerable, and the forgotten.

## **A Night of Watching and Prayer**

Following the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is placed in a side chapel or altar of repose, and the faithful are invited to stay and watch in prayer, just as the disciples were asked to remain with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. This quiet time deepens our intimacy with the Lord and prepares us for the sorrow of Good Friday.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is more than a commemoration—it is a living encounter with Christ, who gives Himself to us in love, service, and sacrifice. We encourage all the faithful to attend this sacred liturgy and enter more deeply into the mystery of God's saving work.

***Please check the diocesan website for the Holy Thursday Mass schedule at your local parish.***

### **Holy Thursday Prayer - In Remembrance of the Lord's Supper**

Lord Jesus Christ,

on this holy night, we remember with reverence

the gift You gave us at the Last Supper—

Your Body and Blood, broken and poured out for our salvation.

Thank You for the Holy Eucharist,

the living memorial of Your love.

You knelt before Your disciples

and washed their feet in humility and grace.

Teach us to follow Your example,

to serve others with compassion,

and to love without condition.

As we stay with You in prayer,  
in the Garden of Gethsemane,  
give us the strength to remain faithful  
in times of suffering, sorrow, and silence.  
Help us to say, with trusting hearts,  
“Not my will, but Yours be done.”

We pray for all priests,  
who continue Your ministry at the altar.  
Bless them with holiness, courage, and joy  
as they serve Your people.

Lord, on this night of remembrance,  
draw us deeper into the mystery of Your love.  
Make our hearts a dwelling place for You,  
and prepare us to walk with You  
through the cross to the glory of the Resurrection.

Amen.