



FAITH FORMATION NEWSLETTER



April 2026

WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE!

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! While we recognize and embrace our time of penitential preparation during the Lenten Season, we are an Easter People! As Catholics, we get to truly celebrate Easter as a Season, from Easter weekend to Pentecost (this year, on May 24). Fifty days of jubilation!

Please continue to pray for and engage with our faith formation programs: Please pray especially for our second graders and their families who celebrated First Communion on the weekend of April 18-19, as well as our OCIA participants welcomed into the Church at Easter Vigil Mass. We want to welcome and encourage these “neophytes” and those still preparing for full membership in the Church. Finally, please continue to support your children and their teachers during these final weeks of the faith formation school year, consider signing-up your younger kids and yourselves to participate in our vacation Bible school (VBS), encourage our youth ministry group as they prepare for the Steubenville Conference in late June, and join us for adult faith formation opportunities.





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THE MASS

The Mass: Let's continue our consideration of the Mass by discussing the Liturgy of the Word.

The Liturgy of the Word: From our earliest days, the Church faithful "...devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to the breaking of the bread in their homes" (Acts 2:46). Jewish tradition adopted by the early Christians (Catholics) included a structured reading from Hebrew Scripture, psalms, and community prayers. The early Church practices around reading Scripture also included profession of the Gospel (Christ's life and proclamation of the Kingdom), first by word-of-mouth and later from written documents, as well as letters from Paul and the other Apostles. St Justin Martyr (circa 155AD) described Church gatherings where "memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, followed by a homily, common prayers, and the kiss of peace." While our formal Biblical Canon (authoritative Scripture – assembled books into Old and New Testaments) did not become finalized and approved as divinely inspired until the late 300's AD (Council of Rome in 382, Synod of Hippo in 393, Council of Carthage in 397 - and reaffirmed at the Councils of Florence in 1442 and Trent in 1546), the establishment of the Liturgy of the Word in the structure and formula of the Mass has been with us since our beginning (this reflects our Catholic Tradition and Scripture). The Ecumenical Vatican Council II (1962-1965) and follow-up work in 1969-1970 updated the Liturgy of the Word by promoting the vernacular (local language) and a three-year Sunday readings cycle (A: the Gospel of Matthew, B: Mark with some John, C: Luke). Our daily Masses follow a 2-year reading cycle (I: odd years, II: even years).

The structure of the Liturgy of the Word consists of a First Reading (Old Testament or Acts that relates to the Gospel), Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading (Epistles), Gospel Acclamation, Gospel Reading, Homily (not a sermon), Profession of Faith (Creed), and Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful).

Dividing the Mass into the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, allows God's people to be fed with His Word and with Christ's Body and Blood. Among other things, the Liturgy of the Word reminds us that the Old Testament foreshadows the New Testament, and Christ fulfills the prophets.

Next month: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Ed Anderson – Director of Faith Formation



ST. JOHN'S



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DON'T MISS...
THE END OF THE YEAR
FAITH FORMATION FAMILY MASS,
MAY CROWNING, AND PICNIC!
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH
6:00 PM



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