

*There are several variations on the rites that follow. What is written in this document is the most common form of mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Billings.*

## The Introductory Rite

The Priest welcomes the parishioners and introduces where to find the first song in the Breaking Bread book. While the parishioners sing the first song, the Priest and the ministers approach the altar. When he has arrived at the altar, after bowing with the ministers, the Priest venerates the altar with a kiss and goes to the chair. When the song has concluded, the priest and the parishioners sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross while the Priest says: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

The people reply: **Amen.**

The priest says: **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.** (Or some variation)

The people reply: **And with your spirit.**

## Penitential Act

The Priest invites the faithful to make the Penitential Act: **Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart, Lord, have mercy.**

The people reply: **Lord have mercy.**

The priest: **You came to call sinners, Christ, have mercy.**

The people: **Christ have mercy.**

The priest: **You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord have mercy.**

The people: **Lord, have mercy.**

The priest: **May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply: **Amen.**

Following this is the Gloria. This is normally sung according to the current mass setting. The mass setting can be found in the pew.

## The Liturgy of the Word

The reader goes to the ambo and reads the first reading (found in the Breaking Bread) while all sit and listen. To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims: **The word of the Lord.**

All reply: **Thanks be to God.**

For the Psalm, the cantor will be at the ambo, the musician plays the response through once, the cantor sings the response (normally found in the Breaking Bread), then will raise one or both hands to indicate the parishioners turn to sing the response. After each verse of the Psalm, the cantor will indicate when to sing the response.

For the second reading, a reader reads it from the ambo. To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims: **The word of the Lord.**

All reply: **Thanks be to God.**

There follows the Alleluia (found in the mass setting in the pew).

The Deacon or the Priest says from the ambo: **The Lord be with you.**

The people reply: **And with your spirit.**

The Deacon or Priest: **A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.**

The people acclaim: **Glory to you, O Lord.** (While saying this the people will make the sign of the cross with their thumb on their foreheads, lips, and over their hearts. This signifies asking God to be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.)

The Deacon or Priest proclaims the Gospel. At the end of the Gospel, the Deacon or Priest acclaims: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

All reply: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

All sit after this reply for the homily preached by a Priest or Deacon.

At the end of the homily, when indicated by the Priest we proclaim our faith with either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed. Generally we use the Apostles' Creed which can be found on page 10 in the Breaking Bread. The Nicene Creed can be found on page 9 of the Breaking Bread as well as on the inside cover.

Then follows the Prayer of the Faithful. A lector will read the prayers and conclude each prayer by saying: **We pray to the Lord.**

All reply: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The cantor will announce the next song to be sung while the gifts (bread and wine which will be consecrated) are brought to the altar.

After the conclusion of the song, and the Priest, standing at the altar, takes the paten with the bread and holds it slightly above the altar with both hands, saying: **Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, which will become for us the bread of life.**

All reply: **Blessed be God forever.**

The priest takes the chalice and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands saying: **Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.**

All reply: **blessed be God forever.**

Standing in the middle of the altar, the Priest says: **Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.**

The people rise and reply: **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.**

The priest says the Prayer over the Offerings, at the end of which the people acclaim: **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer by saying: **The Lord be with you.**

The people reply: **And with your spirit.**

The Priest: **Lift up your hearts.**

The people: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

The Priest: **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

The people: **It is right and just.**

The Priest continues the Preface. At the end of the Preface, all sing the Holy (found in the Mass Setting in the Pew). At the conclusion of the Holy, all kneel as the Priest continues the prayer.

The full texts for the different Eucharistic prayers can be found in the Breaking Bread.

The Priest: **The mystery of faith.**

The people will sing When We Eat this Bread found in the Mass Setting in the pew.

The Priest continues the prayer.

The Priest says or sings: **Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever.**

The people reply by singing the Great Amen found in the Mass Setting in the pew.

## The Communion Rite

The Priest: **At the Savior's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:**

All continue: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

The priest: **Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

The Priest: **Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.**

The people reply: **Amen.**

The Priest: **The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

The people reply: **And with your spirit.**

The Priest or Deacon: **Let us offer each other the sign of peace.**

All offer one another a sign, often a handshake with an accompanied **Peace be with you.** If uncomfortable shaking hands, nodding, small wave, etc. are suitable alternatives. After the sign of peace, the Lamb of God is sung (found in the Mass Setting in the pew).

All kneel.

The Priest: **Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The people: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The priest will now consume the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ before offering it to the Eucharistic Ministers. While this is occurring, the cantor will announce the Communion song, found in the Breaking Bread.

Pews will be dismissed by the ushers to approach and receive communion. All faithful Catholics in a state of grace are invited to participate in receiving the Eucharist. Any who are not able to receive the Eucharist are invited to approach and indicate by crossing both arms over the chest that they would instead like to receive a blessing. After receiving Eucharist or a blessing, parishioners return to their pews to kneel.

After all present have received Eucharist or a blessing, the Priest will distribute Eucharist to our ministers to the shut ins. As the Priest sends forth the ministers, parishioners extend their hands to participate in the sending forth.

The Priest will then take any of the Body of Christ left over to the tabernacle before returning to the chair. While this is happening, parishioners sing the Anima Christi:

**Soul of Christ, sanctify me;  
Body of Christ, save me;  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;  
O good Jesus, hear me;  
Within your wounds, O Lord, hide me;  
Separated from you, let me never be.  
From the evil one, protect me;  
At the hour of my death, call me;**

**Jesus call me.  
Close to you, Jesus bid me;  
That with all the saints, I may praise Thee;  
Praise you forever—and forever.  
Praise you forever, Amen.  
Praise you forever, Amen.**

After a period of silence, the Priest rises and says: **Let us pray.**

After the prayer, the people reply: **Amen.**

## The Concluding Rite

The Priest may relay some announcements before the dismissal.

The Priest: **The Lord be with you.**

The people: **And with your spirit.**

The Priest blesses the people, saying: **May almighty God bless you: (make the sign of the cross as the Priest says the next part) the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

The people reply: **Amen.**

The Priest or Deacon: **Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.**

The people: **Thanks be to God.**

The cantor will announce the final song found in the Breaking Bread. As the Priest and ministers process towards the back of the church, the people will sing the final song.