

First Holy Communion Parish Preparation—March 2024



Fill In The Blanks With The Words Below

At Mass Jesus is present to us in many ways. He is present to us in the _____ gathered. He is present in the _____ that we listen to. Jesus is present to us in the _____ that we receive. Every Mass includes some of actions and words that Jesus used at the _____. The reason we celebrate Mass is because Jesus said, 'Do this in _____'.

At the start of Mass we sometimes pray a prayer called the _____ to say sorry for our sins. The reader then reads stories from _____. The priest asks the Holy Spirit to change the _____ and _____ into the _____ and blood of Jesus. When we receive Holy Communion we welcome Jesus and ask him to help us to be more like him.

bread, Word of God, Scripture, wine, Holy Communion, 'memory of me',
body, community, Last Supper, Confiteor

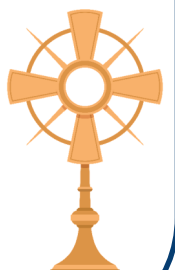
Put the 4 "S's" of Mass in the correct order.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

(Supper/Sacrifice, Sorry, Sending, Story/Scripture)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration is when we spend time in prayer with Jesus who is present in the form of the Blessed Sacrament—the Eucharist, or Sacred Host. During the celebration of Mass, the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. "This is my Body", Jesus said. Jesus also said, "I will be with you always, until the end of time," (Mt. 28:20) and so after each Mass, the Sacred Host is placed in the tabernacle where we know Jesus is present as he said he would be, where we can pray to Jesus, and where we can worship and adore Him. Sometimes the Sacred Host is taken from the tabernacle and placed in a stand called a Monstrance. Here, we worship, praise, adore, and glorify Jesus. He is our Lord and our Saviour.



The Life of St. Patrick



I'd like to take you on a journey. Follow me...

Hello. My name is Patrick, the Patron saint of Ireland. I was born in Roman Britain in Wales the 4th Century. My real name was Maewyn Succat. My father was a Roman army officer and a deacon of the Church. Even though my family were involved in the church, I was not a believer. When I was 16, I was captured by raiders and sold as a slave to an Irish farmer in Co. Antrim. There, I had to look after sheep and pigs on a hill called Sliabh Mish. While on the mountain, I was cold and hungry. I prayed night and day, and God was with me always. One night I had a dream in which an angel told me I would soon be free. The angel spoke of a boat in Waterford that would return me to my parents in Wales after six years in Ireland. But my dreams did not end there! While in Wales, I heard the voice of the Irish people calling me to come back to help them learn about Christianity. God was calling me to be a priest, so I spent 12 years in Europe studying to be a priest and later a bishop. Pope Celestine sent me back to Ireland with his blessing and I landed in Co. Down. Over the next 20 years, with the help of others, I set up small monastic settlements, preached daily about the kingdom of heaven and baptised those who accepted the Gospel. I lit the Easter fire on the Hill of Slane to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, and the High King of Ireland, King Lóegaire who lived on the Hill of Tara, spotted the fire and came to see what was happening. I explained to him about Jesus Christ and what he did for us, and King Lóegaire was baptised. I wrote a famous prayer known as St. Patrick's Breastplate. My feast day is celebrated on the 17th March each year all across the world.



I wrote a famous prayer known as St. Patrick's Breastplate. My feast day is celebrated on the 17th March each year all across the world.

(Images taken from BBC Saint Patrick's Journey—Introduction to Sint Patrick: Northern Ireland Learning.

St. Patrick and the Shamrock



Shamrocks symbolize St. Patrick's Day because St. Patrick was a Christian missionary who used a clover to explain the Holy Trinity of Christianity, which is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

He said the three leaves stand for the three beings of God, and the stem shows how they are united into one. The shamrock became the symbol of St. Patrick, who later became the patron saint of Ireland.

In 1681, people started pinning a shamrock to their clothes as they celebrated St. Patrick's Day, and the tradition is still carried on today — not only in Ireland, but all over the world.

And because shamrocks are green, people eventually started wearing green on St. Patrick's Day.