**Preparation for Holy Communion**

**April 2024**

**We give thanks**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

**Reader** Welcome everyone. Today we gather as a community to celebrate Mass, giving thanks to the God for all that he has blessed us with in our lives.

We especially thank God for sending us his only son Jesus, who has been our role model, teaching us how to live, how to love. How to give to others and how to receive from others. How to be in appreciation of the many gifts and talents that each one of us has and how they can enrich the lives of many and our communities.

 Today we welcome especially the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and their families. Let us take a moment before we begin today’s celebration of the Eucharist, to reflect on what we are thankful for.

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Prayers of the Faithful***

**Priest:** Loving God, today we gather to give you praise and thanks for all that you

have blessed us with. Trusting in your unconditional love, mercy and compassion for us, we bring you our prayers**.**

**Reader:** We pray for all world leaders, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Ray, that they may lead us with faith, hope and love and always strive for inclusivity and peace. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader:** We pray for peace and harmony in our homes, families, communities and in the wider world. We remember all people affected by war, conflict and oppression. May they feel the Lord’s presence in their lives as they work toward resolution and peace. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** Loving God, we thank you for giving the world your only son Jesus, who has taught us to live and to love. May we continue to be inspired by Jesus in our daily life and follow in his footsteps in all that we do for others. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for the children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion: that each child knows how valued they are in their faith community as they continue to grow in love, faith and relationship with Jesus. Lord hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for all of creation and the Earth, our common home: that we may continue to love and care for it, respecting natural resources and working towards environmental and ecological sustainability. Lord hear us.

**Reader:** Lord we think of our loved ones who have died. We remember especially…

Lord hear us.

***Priest*:** Loving God,help us to feel and know your loving, merciful and compassionate presence in our life always. Guide us to live a faith filled and purposeful life, caring for all of God’s people and creation.

Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

**Reader:** Just as we see the sun in its rays,

 The fountain in its waters,

 So may we see streams of divine power

And wisdom in our daily graces and blessings

Flowing into our life,

Calling us to truth, justice, love and peace.

* Sr. Stan (adapted from Moments of Stillness)

**Closing Song:** This is the day (Grow in Love pg. 212)