**Preparation for Holy**

**January 2024**

**We listen to God’s Word**

**Communion at**

**Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

***Reader*** Welcome everyone. A special welcometo the children preparing to receive the sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation, and their families.As we accompany you on your faith journey, as a parish, we remember and reflect on the invitation extended to each one of us to listen to God’s word. There are many ways that we listen to God’s word, using some of our senses. We firstly listen with our ears – to understand what God is telling us. We then listen with our hearts, by touching the hearts and lives of others with kindness and generosity of spirit. Finally, we use of eyes to watch God’s word come to life in our everyday lives, as we help one another to make our world a kind and good one for everyone to live in. Today before we begin our celebration, we ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us and bless our ears, hearts and eyes as we listen to God’s word today, and that we may have the courage to not just listen to God’s word but try to bring God’s word to life by our actions of kindness, love and generosity to all that we meet.

***Liturgy of the Word***

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

***Prayers of the Faithful***

**Priest:** Loving and gentle God, help us to accept the invitation you share with us, to hear your word and carry out your word faithfully in our lives. Help us to be living witness to your word and be led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do.

**Reader:** We pray for Church leaders, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Ray,

and the clergy in our community as they lead us into the fullness of your word. May they be blessed and led by the Holy Spirit with courage in the midst of challenges, conflict and change. Lord hear us.

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

**Reader:** For Christians, and all people of other faiths and none, that we may find a path of unity through respect and kindness. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for the children and their families in our parish who are preparing for the sacraments. That they may be led by the Holy Spirit and feel God’s presence close to them as they nurture and hand on the faith to their children. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for all families in our parish, that they may be blessed with forgiveness, love and care. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** For all who have died, that they may be held close in your love.

We remember especially….. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for the Earth, our common home. That we may care for our Earth’s precious resources that sustain all life. Lord, hear us.

**Priest:** Gentle and loving God,

in your kindness answer our prayers

and deepen in us the gift of listening heart.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***



**Closing Song:** Following a star (Grow in Love pg. 122)