

# Celebration without a Priest – Options and Outline

*The revised edition of Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest offers the option to celebrate Morning or Evening prayer with a Communion Rite or a Liturgy of the Word, with or without a Communion Rite. Let's take a look at the Outline for the later.*

## The Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word [with Holy Communion]

### ■ Introductory Rites

The celebration begins **without a procession**. As all are gathered instrumental music may be played. A deacon or lay leader standing at a place other than behind the altar or at the chair designated for the priest, begins with an introduction.

The **Greeting response** is not “And with your Spirit” but “Blessed be God forever” [*We will look at this in next week's insert*]

The **Opening prayer** is prayed.

### ■ Liturgy of the Word

– as in any Mass celebrated – First reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second reading, and Gospel.

A lay person omits the greeting “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel according to ..”



A **Homily** may be given by a deacon. A homily prepared by the pastor may be read by a lay person. A period of silence for reflection follows.

**Profession of Faith** is recited – either the Nicene or Apostles Creed

**Prayer of the Faithful** is prayed

If Holy Communion is not to be distributed, the service continues with The Act of Thanksgiving

### ■ Communion Rite

The deacon or lay leader goes to the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, genuflects and takes the ciborium and places it on the Altar.

**Lord's Prayer** is prayed...

**Invitation to Communion** – “This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.” “Lord, I am not worthy ...”

After the distribution of Holy Communion, the deacon or lay leader invites all to an **Act of Thanksgiving** in which we praise the glory and mercy of God.

## ■ **Concluding Rite**

Now we have any **announcements** to be given and **the Collection** of monetary offerings from the gathered assembly.

What follows is an **Invitation to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood**.

The **Blessing**

**A Sign of Peace** is offered

A final song or instrumental music concludes the celebration.

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## **What is different from the Celebration of Eucharist (The Mass)?**

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- No entrance procession
- No Celebrant – rather a leader who does not stand where the priest does
- No Penitential Rite
- No Gloria
- No Offertory procession
- No Lamb of God ... rather the invitation to Communion
- The Collection is moved to after Holy Communion has been distributed
- A prayer for Vocations has been added
- The Rite ends with a Sign of peace



### **Invitation to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood –**

*Mindful of the Lord's word, "As the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest," let us pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. May our prayer hasten the day when we will be able to take part in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.*

**Next week – “And with your spirit” vs “Blessed be God, forever”**