

Sprinkling and Gloria

This week's piece might be more accurately be titled *What Aren't We Doing and Why Not?* Last week I wrote about the *Penitential Rite*, one of the entrance rites that begin Mass. Other elements that can be part of the entrance rites are the *Sprinkling Rite*, and the *Gloria to God*, neither of which we have done during Lent, one of which is done mostly during the Easter Season. When used, the *Sprinkling Rite* replaces the *Penitential Rite* and reminds us of our Baptism, by which we become members of the Church, the Community of Salvation. We can compare this common sprinkling to the individual "sprinkling" we do when we bless ourselves with holy water as we enter church, which is also a reminder and "mini-renewal" of our Baptism. The *Gloria to God*, or *Gloria* in Latin, is the other element that can be used at the beginning of Mass. This ancient hymn begins with the words the angels sang when they announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds in Luke's Gospel. It continues with other verses added very early in the life of the Church. It is the first great prayer of praise and thanks to God in the Mass, the Eucharistic celebration, which is itself a great prayer of praise and thanks to God. The *Gloria* is not used during the seasons of Lent or Advent, in keeping with the more penitential character of these seasons when we "postpone" our most joyful singing in anticipation of the great celebrations of Easter and Christmas.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact our Council for Catechesis at tkautza@saintmaryhc.org.