

Eucharistic Prayer – Eucharistic Prayers

As noted previously, our praying of the *Eucharistic Prayer* (EP) makes up the greatest part of the second main part of the Mass, the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*. The EP is a prayer of praise and thanks to God for His many gifts and blessings to us, from life itself to our new life in Christ. Some parts of this prayer are always the same, such as the *Holy Holy Holy*, the words and greetings exchanged between the priest and people, and the words of Institution which recall Jesus words and actions at the Last Supper. But there are also many different versions of the EP that can be used. Prior to the changes in the Mass since Vatican II there was only one EP used throughout the Roman Catholic Church. Currently there are 13 different Eucharistic Prayers approved by Rome for use in the United States, though only three are regularly used at most of our Masses. Some of these date back to the earliest days of the Church, some are of more recent and contemporary composition. There are nine (9) Eucharistic Prayers in the *Sacramentary*, the book the priest uses for our weekday and Sunday Masses prayers. These include 4 universal Eucharistic Prayers, 3 Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children, and 2 Eucharistic Prayers for Masses of Reconciliation. Under a separate cover there are 4 other EPs for *Various Needs and Occasions* called: *The Church on the Way to Unity*, *God Guides the Church on the Way of Salvation*, *Jesus- Way to the Father*, and *Jesus - the Compassion of God*. Though we are most familiar with only three of these Eucharistic Prayers, the goodness and generosity of God's blessing is not only expressed in the words of the Eucharistic Prayer itself, but in the fact that the Church provides so many different Eucharistic Prayers.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact Fr. Dan Krettek at dkrettek@saintmaryhc.org.