

## ***The Liturgy of the Word: Let the Conversation Begin***

In our last reflection on the Liturgy of the Word, we looked at how *when the Scriptures are proclaimed and we listen, a real communication or conversation between God and us takes place...a covenant dialogue in which God and each of us speak to one another*. This conversation or dialogue also takes place in another way within Mass as the Liturgy of the Word leads into the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Within the Liturgy of the Word God speaks and we respond by our attentive listening, and by taking the Word into our daily lives. We also respond to the Word ritually in the second part of Mass when we offer back to God our prayer of praise and thanksgiving and the gifts of bread and wine first given to us. In this way the whole structure of the Mass is a kind of dialogue or “back and forth” exchange between God and us.

In fact, all of our Catholic liturgies follow this conversational structure or pattern of God speaking the Word, and us responding with a ritual sacramental action signifying our acceptance. All our sacramental celebrations begin with a Liturgy of the Word, which is followed by a Liturgy of the Sacrament, be it Baptism, Penance, Marriage, and so on. Thus, the very structure of our prayer itself expresses its content, the living, personal encounter between God who is with us and we who accept that invitation and gift of God.

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](mailto:dkrettek@saintmaryhc.org).