



# Eucharistic Liturgy

## *Scuba Totally Catholic VBS 2024*

Many parishes celebrate Eucharist with the *Vacation Bible School* participants, their families, and the parish community during this special week. Eucharist may be celebrated on the eve of the final day, for example, Thursday night, if the last day of VBS is on Friday, or it may be celebrated on Friday to end the VBS experience.

Two Eucharist options are provided. Choose one of the following options in consultation with your Presider:

- **Eucharist Option One:** Prepare your Eucharistic Liturgy using the readings of the day from the *Lectionary*.
- **Eucharist Option Two:** Prepare your Eucharistic Liturgy using readings (provided) taken from the participants' experience at VBS.

### **EUCCHARIST OPTION ONE**

If you choose to celebrate Eucharist using the readings of the day from the *Lectionary*, an outline to help prepare for that liturgy follows. The only music selections recommended here are those from *Scuba Totally Catholic VBS*, so consider some other music if needed, as the music should be selected according to the themes from the readings for the day.

#### **Preparation and Supplies**

- Place an announcement in the parish bulletin inviting VBS participant households and the parish community to the Mass.
- Choose songs based upon the readings of the day.
- Prepare the liturgical space, if desired, by displaying items from the week in an appropriate spot in the gathering space. If you have chosen to participate in the Connecting Kids to Justice project during the week, place an appropriate display in the narthex for people to see as they enter the church.

- Invite the parish sacristan to set up for Eucharist as is the norm for the parish.
- Review the liturgy with the celebrant and share with him the points that could be considered for inclusion in the homily.
- Recruit and prepare the necessary ministers, preferably from among VBS participants and volunteers (preferably those already commissioned by the parish for these ministries)—readers, music ministers, hospitality ministers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, and so on.
- Consider having a collection for the Connecting Kids to Justice project before the offertory, if deemed appropriate (e.g., the participants have not already been making donations all week).

## **Introductory Rites**

**Entrance Hymn** (Gathering or Processional): “Forever God, Forever Love” (found on the Scuba Sing and Play Splash Music Soundtrack) or other songs suitable for the readings of the day.

### **Collect (Opening Prayer)**

Use the opening prayer for the day.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

Readers proclaim the readings of the day; celebrant proclaims the Gospel of the day and offers a homily

### **Homily**

If the readings lend themselves to it, consider connecting to themes such as God’s real, loving, trustworthy, and forever friendship that is offered to us and to all people. In this year’s VBS, we focused on aspects of our Catholic Tradition that remind us of God’s love, friendship, and protection including the Eucharist, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel (whom God sends to protect and defend us), the Funeral Pall (a reminder of our relationship with God that began at baptism and extends beyond our death), and the closing rites of the Mass, in which we are invited to take Jesus into the world and invite others into God’s friendship.

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

After the intercessions listed below, add any specific intentions for the VBS participants, their families, or the community in general. After each petition, please respond with, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

For Church leaders, that they may continue in God’s friendship so they can be good shepherds to God’s people, we pray to the Lord.

For leaders of all countries, that they demonstrate God’s love by caring for all their people, we pray to the Lord.

For the poor and the suffering, especially those suffering from hunger, that God may use us to show his friendship by caring for their needs, we pray to the Lord.

For those who are sick and dying and all those who are living in dark times, that Jesus' forever friendship will bring them hope and healing, we pray to the Lord.

For all who serve this parish as leaders, especially those who helped with VBS this week, we pray to the Lord.

For all those gathered here. May we be examples of God's friendship by living in harmony, walking together in faith, we pray to the Lord.

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **Preparation of the Altar**

Use the prayer for the day from the *Roman Missal*.

Music option: "Count Your Blessings" (found on the *Scuba Sing and Play Splash* music soundtrack).

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Consider using the "Eucharistic Prayer for Use in Masses for Various Needs II: God Guides His Church along the Way of Salvation."

### **Communion Rite**

#### **Communion Chant Suggestions**

Choose a song to sing during the Communion Rite from the parish repertoire. After the Communion procession is complete and the assembly has had time for silent reflection, you may want to have the participants sing "Your Friend" (found on the *Scuba Sing and Play Splash* music soundtrack).

### **Prayer after Communion**

Use the prayer after communion for the day.

### **Announcements**

If you would like the VBS participants to share some of their experiences from the week, now would be an appropriate time to do so.

## **Concluding Rites**

Depending on your presider and local liturgical practice, either use a blessing from the Roman Missal or the following:

At the end of each blessing, we can all respond, “Amen.”

May God bless you with grace to see that he is your friend, walking beside you even in difficult times. Amen.

May God bless you with mercy so that you can share his friendship by living in harmony with others. Amen.

May God bless you with compassion and forgiveness, so you might see the needs of others and show God’s love to them. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

**Closing Song:** “Thanks, God” (found on the *Scuba Sing and Play Splash* music soundtrack), or another song selection of your choice.

## **EUCCHARIST OPTION TWO**

This celebration uses readings that highlight God’s friendship with us. This week’s VBS message is that God is our friend.

### **Preparation and Supplies**

- Place an announcement in the parish bulletin inviting VBS participant households and the parish community to the Mass.
- Review music and add local parish selections as needed.
- Decorate the worship space, if desired, by displaying items from the week in an appropriate spot in the gathering space.
- If you have chosen to participate in the Connecting Kids to Justice project during the week, place an appropriate display in the narthex or welcome area for people to see as they enter the church.
- Invite the parish sacristan to set up for Eucharist as is the norm for the parish.
- Review the liturgy with the celebrant and share with him the points that could be considered for inclusion in the homily.
- Recruit and prepare the necessary ministers, if possible, from among VBS participants and volunteers (preferably those already commissioned by the parish for these ministries) —readers, music ministers, hospitality ministers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, and so on.



- Consider having a collection for the Connecting Kids to Justice project before the offertory. Consider having a collection for the VBS Outreach Project before the offertory.

## **Introductory Rites**

**Entrance Hymn:** “Forever God, Forever Love” (found on the *Scuba Sing and Play Splash* Music Soundtrack) or other gathering song of your choice.

### **Collect**

*Roman Missal:* see the prayer for the day if it aligns, or ask your presider to choose one.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **Readings**

- First Reading: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Year C, Tuesday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time, Lectionary 402] )
- Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 92: 2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Year B, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Lectionary 92] )
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
- Gospel: John 15:12-17 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Year A, Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter [Lectionary 289])

### **Homily**

Suggest the celebrant include the following points in the homily:

- God calls us into friendship with himself. God is a friend who is real. He loves us. We can trust him. He wants to be friends with us forever.
- We are called to share God’s friendship with others – to invite them to be his friend as well.
- In this year’s VBS, we focused on aspects of our Catholic Tradition that remind us of God’s love, friendship, and protection including the Eucharist, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel (whom God sends to protect and defend us), the Funeral Pall (a reminder of our relationship with God that began at baptism and extends beyond our death), and the closing rites of the Mass, in which we are invited to take Jesus into the world and invite others into God’s friendship.

## **Prayer of the Faithful**

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For those who are sick and dying and all those who are living in dark times, that Jesus’ forever friendship will bring them hope and healing, we pray to the Lord.

For all who serve this parish as leaders, especially those who helped with VBS this week, we pray to the Lord.

For all those gathered here. May we be examples of God’s friendship by living in harmony, walking together in faith, we pray to the Lord.

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **Preparation of the Altar**

Use the prayer for the day from the *Roman Missal*.

Music option: “Count Your Blessings” (found on the *Scuba Sing and Play Splash* music soundtrack).

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Consider using the “Eucharistic Prayer for Use in Masses for Various Needs II: God Guides His Church along the Way of Salvation.”

### **Communion Rite**

#### **Communion Chant Suggestions**

Choose a song to sing during the Communion Rite from the parish repertoire. After the Communion procession is complete and the assembly has had time for silent reflection, you may want to have the participants sing “Your Friend” (found on the *Scuba Sing and Play Splash* music soundtrack).

### **Prayer after Communion**

Use the prayer after communion for the day.

## **Announcements**

If you would like the VBS participants to share some of their experiences from the week, now would be an appropriate time to do so.

## **Concluding Rites**

Depending on your presider and local liturgical practice, either use a blessing from the *Roman Missal* or the following:

At the end of each blessing, we can all respond, “Amen.”

May God bless you with grace to see that he is your friend, walking beside you even in difficult times. Amen.

May God bless you with mercy so that you can share his friendship by living in harmony with others. Amen.

May God bless you with compassion and forgiveness, so you might see the needs of others and show God’s love to them. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

**Closing Song:** “Thanks, God” (found on the *Scuba Sing and Play Splash* music soundtrack), or another song selection of your choice.