



Eucharistic Liturgy

True North Totally Catholic VBS 2025

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 *True North 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 Coats for Kids VBS Outreach 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 Coats for Kids 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): “This is the Day” (found on the *True North Sing and Play Peak* 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 the trustworthiness of Jesus, and the hope, help, and power we have in him. In this year’s VBS, we focused on aspects of our Catholic Tradition that remind us of trusting God, the answers we have in him, and his presence in our lives. Catholic IDs this week included Catechism, the Tabernacle, the Brown Scapular, the Act of Hope, and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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 trust in Jesus and be trustworthy shepherds to God’s people, we pray to the Lord.

For leaders of all countries, that they may be trustworthy 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 them they can trust Jesus and his people to care 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 in this Jubilee Year of Hope, they might find hope and healing by trusting in Jesus, 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 our trust in Jesus be a light to the world, 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: “My Hope is in the Lord” (found on the *True North Sing and Play Peak* 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 “Come to Me” (found on the *True North Sing and Play Peak* 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 you can always trust in him. Amen.

May God bless you with mercy so that you can share the message of hope in Jesus with others. Amen.

May God bless you with compassion and forgiveness, so you might see the needs of others and show God's love and trustworthiness 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: "Let's Trust in Jesus" (found on the *True North Sing and Play Peak* music soundtrack), or another song selection of your choice.

EUCCHARIST OPTION TWO

This celebration uses readings that highlight our trust in Jesus. This week's VBS message is that we can trust Jesus.

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 Coats for Kids VBS Outreach 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 Coats for Kids project before the offertory.

Introductory Rites

Entrance Hymn: “This is the Day” (found on the True North Sing and Play Peak Music Soundtrack) or other songs suitable for the readings of the day.

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: Jer 1:1, 4-10 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Cycle II, Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time, Lectionary 397])
- Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Cycle II, Tuesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time, Lectionary 342])
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
- Gospel: Mt 11:28-30 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Cycle I, Thursday of the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time [Lectionary 392])

Homily

Suggest the celebrant include the following points in the homily:

- Jesus is a friend we can trust – when we need answers, when we feel alone, when we feel powerless, when we need hope, and when we need help.
- We are called to share the trustworthiness of Jesus and the hope we have in him. We have a special opportunity to celebrate and share the hope we have in Jesus in this Jubilee Year of Hope.
- In this year’s VBS, we focused on aspects of our Catholic Tradition that remind us of the trustworthiness of Jesus and his Church. Catholic IDs this week included Catechism, the Tabernacle, the Brown Scapular, the Act of Hope, and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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.”

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Music option: “My Hope is in the Lord” (found on the True North Sing and Play Peak 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.”

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Communion Chant Suggestions

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Announcements

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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.”

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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: “Let’s Trust in Jesus” (found on the *True North Sing and Play Peak* music soundtrack), or another song selection of your choice.