



Eucharistic Liturgy

Rainforest Falls Totally Catholic VBS 2026

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 *Rainforest Falls 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 Cross Catholic 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 VBS Outreach 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): “All Creatures of Our God and King” (found on the *Rainforest Falls Sing and Play Tune Lagoon* 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 the nature of God: God is Creator, he knows everything, he is our safe place, he is love, and he is forever. In this year’s VBS, we focused on aspects of our Catholic Tradition that remind us of the nature of God. Catholic IDs this week included the Cantic of the Sun (*Laudes Creaturarum*), the Book of Wisdom, the Breastplate of St. Patrick, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the Trinity Knot (Triquetra).

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, imaging Jesus the Good Shepherd, they may be loving shepherds to God’s people, we pray to the Lord.
- For leaders of all countries, that they may be good stewards of the gift of God’s Creation, 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 the Good Shepherd 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 they might find remember that God is with them, 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 remain faithful to God, remembering that he is forever faithful to us, 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: “Stand in Awe” (found on the *Rainforest Falls Sing and Play Tune Lagoon* 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 “God Loves Us So” (found on the *Rainforest Falls Sing and Play Tune Lagoon* 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 know him more and more. Amen.
- May God bless you with wisdom so that you can know God’s truth and make good choices that will help you be all that he created you to be. Amen.
- May God bless you with mercy and compassion, so you might see the needs of others and show the loving care of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, 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: “God Is” (found on the *Rainforest Falls Sing and Play Tune Lagoon* music soundtrack), or another song selection of your choice.

EUCCHARIST OPTION TWO

This celebration uses readings that highlight the nature of God, which is this week’s VBS message.

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 Cross Catholic 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 VBS Outreach project before the offertory.

Introductory Rites

Entrance Hymn: “All Creatures of our God and King” (found on the *Rainforest Falls Sing and Play Tune Lagoon 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: Genesis 1:20-2:4a (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Cycle I, Tuesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time, Lectionary 330])
- Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Cycle I, Tuesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time, Lectionary 330])
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
- Gospel: John 10:11-18 (Note: This reading can be found in the Lectionary for Year B, The Fourth Sunday of Easter [Lectionary 50])

Homily

Suggest the celebrant include the following points in the homily:

- God is creator, and he knows everything: God made the whole world, and he also made each of us. He has a plan for our lives, and if we ask him, he will share his wisdom with us.
- God cares for us. He is our safe place, and like a Good Shepherd, he guides us and gives us the things we need.
- In this year’s VBS, we focused on aspects of our Catholic Tradition that remind us of the nature of God. Catholic IDs this week included the Canticle of the Sun (Laudes Creaturarum), the Book of Wisdom, the Breastplate of St. Patrick, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the Trinity Knot (Triquetra).

Prayer of the Faithful

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- For all who serve this parish as leaders, especially those who helped with VBS this week, we pray to the Lord.
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Music option: “Stand in Awe” (found on the *Rainforest Falls Sing and Play Tune Lagoon* music soundtrack).

Eucharistic Prayer

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Communion Rite

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Prayer after Communion

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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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May God bless you with mercy and compassion, so you might see the needs of others and show the loving care of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to them. Amen.
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