

Sacraments and Sacramentals

At Bishop Grimes Prep you may hear of other sacraments and sacramentals. A **sacrament** is an outward sign of an internal grace given by Christ for our sanctification. For example, the Sacrament of Eucharist was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper. In this sacrament the bread and wine (external signs) become the Body and Blood of Christ who gives grace to the one receiving Him in Holy Communion.

We also celebrate the **Sacrament of Penance** as a school community. In this sacrament, the individual confesses their sins to a priest. The priest stands in for the person of Christ. In doing so, he listens to the sins of the penitent (person confessing) and bestows God's forgiveness by saying the words of absolution. The person is forgiven of all of his or her sins. This power, given to the priest at his ordination, derives from Jesus' instruction to his disciples: *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."* (Jn 20:23) And so we provide our students and faculty the opportunity for this beautiful sacrament of God's mercy.

Finally, you will notice statues, crucifixes, and other holy images throughout the school. These objects are called sacramentals. They are simply visible reminders of our faith. They help us to remember and honor our Lord, His Blessed Mother Mary, and the great saints of our Church

Other Devotions

The **Rosary** and other devotions to the saints are prayed at Bishop Grimes Prep. These help us to ask Mary, the Mother of God, and all the saints for the help we need to get to heaven!

Thank you

Many thanks for choosing Bishop Grimes Prep. We ask God's blessing upon you and those you love!

Bishop Grimes Prep



*Welcome to our
Catholic School!*

Welcome to Bishop Grimes Prep!

It is exciting to have you and your family as a part of our Bishop Grimes Prep family. We want you to feel welcome and to understand the Catholic foundation of our school. Hopefully, this booklet will answer most of your questions. Please feel free to visit with a priest, the principal, or a teacher regarding any other questions you may have.



The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

As a Catholic community our lives center around the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly

present, body, blood, soul, and divinity, in the bread and wine that are consecrated at Mass. Each time we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we follow the Lord's command to His disciples at the Last Supper: ***"Do this in memory of me."*** This allows us to experience the Presence of Christ in a special way and challenges us to bring that Presence to others through the goodness of our daily lives and through the various service projects in which we are involved. This way we recognize and honor the Lord's Presence in others as well as in the world.

How Do We Celebrate Our Catholic Faith?

Because the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a commemoration of Jesus' death and Resurrection, we as Catholics use certain symbols and say certain prayers that have been handed down to us from the Apostles through the Church. These things help us to celebrate our faith.

What Might You See At Mass?

During the celebration of Mass, the priest wears clothing which signifies his priestly office. These are called **vestments**. The colors of the vestments represent the mood of the Mass being offered. For example, white signifies joy and triumph and is used on special feasts and during the Easter and Christmas seasons.

At the beginning of Mass we listen to God's Word from Sacred Scripture. The readings are proclaimed from a book called the **Lectionary**. The priest prays the prayers of the Mass from a book called the **Sacramentary**.

Mass is celebrated on an **altar**. On this table the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. A chalice, a crucifix, candles, and a presider's chair are also used during Mass.

The Mass itself is made of four parts:

1. **Introductory Rite-** We call to mind our sins, asking God's forgiveness, praising God, and petitioning God in prayer.
2. **Liturgy of the Word-** We hear God speaking to us as the Scriptures are read aloud and as the priest preaches the homily.
3. **Liturgy of the Eucharist-** We commemorate the Lord's death and Resurrection and we receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion.
4. **Concluding Rite-** We receive God's blessing to go and live the reality of what we have just received.