

# The Year of Faith

## Catechesis on the Mass

### The Collect

The culmination of the beginning part of the Mass is the Collect [**kol**-ekt]. The Collect is so named because it brings together the various individual prayers of each person at the Mass and places every one of them in the context of what we are celebrating at a given Mass.

This prayer begins with the priest giving the invitation:

**"Let us pray."** A moment of silence is then observed while all pray silently each of our various intentions.

The priest then concludes this moment of individual prayer with the text of the Collect.

For example, at Christmas Midnight Mass he prays:

*"O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven."*

The prayer is ended with a concluding formula, which recalls the entire Holy Trinity.

Next week, we cover the Liturgy of the Word...

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