

# IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THE MASS

## Preface Dialogue and Sanctus

This is article 11 of 21 of the Mass series

### The Preface Dialogue

One part of Mass often overlooked is called the Preface Dialogue. It draws our attention to the high point of the Mass, the great Eucharistic Prayer. It's kind of like getting ready for a race.

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And with your Spirit.

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right and just.

Liturgical dialogues foster communion between priest and people. They bond the people with each other to pray together, and they bond the people to the priest when the people speak to him in unison. The unity of the mystical Body of Christ is both expressed and advanced by these dialogues.

"Lift up" is derived from the Latin, "Sursum corda," literally, "Hearts aloft." In the last line, it is "right" to give thanks because that is why humans were created, and it is "just" because God deserves to be praised.

With the celebration of the Eucharist, we can resume running the race toward the Father, with Jesus as our model and the Spirit empowering us. Let us pray the Preface Dialogue with enthusiasm.

### Where does Holy, Holy, Holy come from and what does "Hosanna" mean"?

This prayer is called the Sanctus because that is its first word in Latin. The first line is the hymn of the seraphim in Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8. The second part is what the crowd cried to Jesus at his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which is modeled after Psalm 118:25.

Hosanna is derived from the Hebrew term "Yasha na." "Yasha" means "save," and "na" is an expression of entreaty or request. It can be translated in a variety of ways: "I pray," "Please," "I beseech," or "Oh." The Hebrew terms were combined - Yasha na ("O, save!"), as in Psalm 118:25 - and this became Hosanna.

This week's *In Spirit and Truth* is written by Fr. Ken