

Sunday Celebration of the Word

With & Without Communion



The Celebration or Liturgy of the Word has been a sacred liturgical ritual from the time of the early church, after the Resurrection of Christ. Christ's disciples kept the Sabbath as a day to gather to worship, to give praise and thanksgiving to God, and to share the Scriptures.

So, too, do we gather to pray the Sunday Celebration of the Word in the absence, or in anticipation of a priest. The Sunday Celebration of the Word is a true assembly, a liturgy where we come together as a community, using liturgical guidelines for this celebration as laid out by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). It fulfills our Mass obligation in the absence of an available priest as outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The differences are intentional as this is not the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but a focus on being fed by God's Word.

- This celebration honours the Word of Sacred Scripture. After the Opening Rite, there is a procession for the enthronement of the Word (Lectionary) to mark the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word.
- A pre-prepared Homily by a priest, or reflection from a Diocesan-approved prescribed text, is presented after the Gospel reading.
- If there is sufficient consecrated Hosts (Body of Christ) in the Tabernacle, consecrated by a priest at an earlier Mass, then there will be a distribution of Communion after the Sign of Peace.
- There is no Offertory Procession of gifts as there is no Liturgy of the Eucharist. As such, if there is a collection, this is done after Communion, following any announcements to be made.

All Leaders of Prayer and Leaders of Communion who lead Sunday Celebrations of the Word are trained and commissioned as a Rite according to Catholic teaching.

From the *Welcome Greeting*
provided by Ms. Gwen Jahelka
Director of Faith Formation & Evangelization
Diocese of Victoria, BC