



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Mass—The Bearer of Gifts*



*After the Liturgy of the Word comes the Liturgy of the Eucharist which refers to the part of the Mass that begins with the collection and the preparation of the altar and the bread and wine. A collection is taken up to be used for the support of the Church and its works. When not during Covid-19 restrictions, the bread and wine used for the Eucharist are then brought forth to the presider. What are we doing in these actions? Much of the answer lies in the word “Eucharist.” Derived from the Greek, it means “thanksgiving.” The main prayer of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Eucharistic prayer.*

*When outside Covid-19 protocols, anyone is welcome to participate in the presentation of the gifts. The ideal is to have the family who has requested the Mass or people who come forward to participate in a special liturgical celebration. Participating in the offertory procession is a privilege enabling us to feel that we belong to God’s family, taking an active part in this Eucharistic preparation. Eucharist is the celebration of our lives in Christ. After the pandemic, if you would like to be part of this procession, just speak with an usher when you come to church. When coming to the sanctuary with the gifts, it is customary to hand the gifts of bread and wine to the priest. First, the collection is presented, then the wine, then the bread. When the priest or deacon receives the gifts, he and the servers turn and bow before the altar. Those who bring the gifts should do the same as well.*

*In ancient times, people offered themselves by bringing bread and wine from their homes. Today, we offer ourselves when we*

*participate in the responses or songs of the Eucharist. As a family (or other persons) brings the gifts forward, we spiritually unite ourselves with those gifts and present ourselves to the Lord, that WE TOO might be transformed into the Body of Christ. The table is then prepared as the center of the Eucharistic liturgy.*

*Our giving—as we sing, as we bring up bread and wine, as we give to the collection for the support of the church and the needy—reminds us of the call to give in the Book of Deuteronomy: “When you give to Him, you must give with an open heart; for the Lord your God will bless you in all you do and in all your giving.”*



*Peace and love to all*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*