

Sunday, March 7 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

The Altar Table is Prepared

John 2:13-25 Jesus Cleanses the Temple

After we hear God's Word, we get ready for Communion. Just as your family prepares for dinner at home, there are many things we do to prepare for this holy and sacred meal. Today, watch carefully for how we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist.

In the Church....

- ✝ Before Mass begins, notice what is on the altar. Talk with mom or dad about what you see on the altar.
- ✝ On the Altar, you will see a glass bowl. The glass bowl holds the prayer intentions that members of our church community have requested. Think of a person who needs our prayers or something that you want us to pray for. You can submit that prayer request on stmatthewcatholic.org/faithfamily.

During Mass...

- ✝ As we get ready to set the altar table, watch carefully. What does the priest or deacon do to set the altar table?
- ✝ Watch the priest carefully as he is getting ready.

What two things do you see him pour into the chalice?

What does he do to his hands after he has prepared the chalice?

- ✝ While the altar and our offerings of bread and wine are being prepared, we have been sitting. As the priest begins his prayer, we stand up.

Why do you think we stand up now?

- ✝ In today's Gospel, Jesus clears out the Temple of people who were selling cattle, sheep and pigeons and the money changers so that people could pay their taxes—all things that shouldn't take place in the Temple. Lent is a good time for us to clean out our hearts of the things that shouldn't be there. **This week, take time to go to Reconciliation as a family to prepare your hearts for Easter.**