

## THE MASS

Catholics worship God in a variety of ways, but the chief act of corporate or communal worship is the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the Eastern churches, Catholic and Orthodox, this is known as the Divine Liturgy; in the West, it is known as the Mass, an English word derived from the Latin text of the priest's dismissal of the congregation at the end of the liturgy ("*Ite, missa est.*"). Throughout the centuries, the liturgy of the Church has taken a variety of regional and historical forms, but one thing has remained constant: The Mass has always been the central form of Catholic worship.

*All Holy Cross Catholic School students, from those in Pre-K to Sixth Grade attend Mass every Tuesday at 8:30 AM and on days of holy obligation when school is in session. Older students are afforded the opportunity to take an active participatory role in all aspects of the mass, serving as lectors, cantors, altar servers, and presenters of offertory gifts.*