

As we celebrate this liturgy, we experience a whole range of thoughts and feelings.

As I began to prepare this homily, the question occurred to me, **if Jesus were with us here today, what would he say to us?**

I began to think of things he **said to the people of his time.**

I certainly do not pretend that I can speak for Jesus, but **I can imagine what his words might be:**

Peace be with you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in me.

I am with you.

I will be with you always.

Love one another.

What is Jesus saying to you today?

What words of comfort do you hear?

The Eucharist is at the heart of our lives as members of the Body of Christ.

And we have come to celebrate **that Eucharist, and the closing rituals** within the context of that Liturgy.

I would pray that our whole time in this church today, and all that we celebrate here, **will be a homily for us.**

I truly believe that we will be fed, nourished, and strengthened in the Eucharist, and that we will find in **the Closing Rituals** a true celebration of the life of St. Mary's Assumption Parish.

May we allow the Lord Jesus to speak to us, touch our hearts, and give us comfort.

Broadway Bound is the third play in Neil Simon's trilogy about his coming of age in a Jewish household in New York.

At one point in the play, **Eugene** casually sits on a corner of the family's dining room table. His mother **Blanche** immediately corrects him:

Are you crazy sitting on my dining room table like that? I never want to see you show disrespect for this table!

My grandfather made this table with his very own hands for my grandmother.

Over 52 years she had this table.

When I was a little girl, I'd go to her house, and she would let me polish it.

I didn't know it was work - I thought it was fun, maybe because we did it together . . .

This table you eat on means everything. It=s the one time in the day when the whole family is together.

This is where you share things - people who eat out all the time don=t get to be a family.

When I=m gone and you and your Josie get married, this will be your table.

The **table of the Eucharist** is our table. No matter which **church building** we are in, the Eucharistic table is our table.

Today we focus on this table, specifically this table at St. Mary's Assumption church.

It is where we **gather as family** to celebrate the sacred meal we call Eucharist.

This table is very important for us.

What Blanche said about her **dining room table** applies to our **Eucharistic table.**

This table is the **center of our life** as the family of St. Mary's Assumption Parish.

We come to this table sometimes as **joyful people.**

We come to the Eucharistic table sometimes as **broken people.**

We have celebrated the **entrance into eternal life** of many of our families and friends at this table, and so have shared **moments** of deep sadness and many tears.

At our table we have prayed for people who have been **sick** or **injured**, as well as those **serving in the military**, as far back as World War I.

We have celebrated the Sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick**, asking God=s healing and comforting touch.

We have celebrated the **forgiveness of sins** here.

We have received **new members** into our Church.

We have celebrated Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions, Marriages, and Marriage Anniversaries.

We have celebrated the **opening of school years**, and the **graduations of our 8th graders**.

Here we have been **strengthened** when weak, **comforted** when sorrowful, **healed** when suffering.

Here we have **met** one another, **gathered to praise** God, to **ask** his favors, to **thank** him for his generous gifts, to **hear** his word.

In Blanche=s words:

This table we eat on means everything. It=s the one time when the whole family is together.

This is where **we share things**.

In our Closing Ritual we will celebrate all that has happened at this table, praising and thanking God for his presence and blessings.

We will also celebrate that **the family of many generations that has gathered around this table is now going to move**.

Although we will not have this particular physical table with us, **we will still have the table of the Eucharist**.

The **table of the Eucharist** is our table. No matter which **church building** we are in, the Eucharistic table is our table.

And so, we carry with us the whole history of the family of St. Mary's Assumption.

Think for a moment of our human families.

There is a great interest these days in tracing our roots.

We know that our families are far beyond the immediate members that we know and associate with.

Many times when a family is able to trace their ancestry, they get together with others, and begin a new, expanded experience of family.

We are all, through our baptism, members of the family of God.

God is our father. Jesus is our brother.

We are sisters and brothers in the Lord.

Since the linking of our three parishes in 2007, our family has expanded into the Community of Blessed Sacrament + St. Mary's.

Now, we are called to enter into a new relationship as the parish of *Our Lady of the Eucharist*.

The **table of the Eucharist** is our table.

The physical table may be different, but the **table of the Eucharist** is the same no matter where we are.

It is where we **gather as family** to celebrate the sacred meal we call Eucharist.

This table is very important for us.

What Blanche said about her **dining room table** applies to ours.

The **Eucharistic table** has been the **center of our life** as the family of St. Mary's Assumption Parish.

The **Eucharistic table** will be the **center of our life** as the family of **Our Lady of the Eucharist**.

It is where we will **continue** to gather, to **meet**, to **be fed**, to **welcome** one another, to **continue to be** what the gathering around this table has made us.

And we will strive to **build upon** what we already have, and **continue to grow** in what it means to be the Parish Family of Our Lady of the Eucharist.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you living among us in the sacrament of your body and blood.

May we offer to our Father in heaven a solemn pledge of undivided love.

May we offer to our brothers and sisters a life poured out in loving service of that kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.