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CHILDREN'S MASS BOOK

Written By  
**Sister Mary Theola, s.s.n.d.**

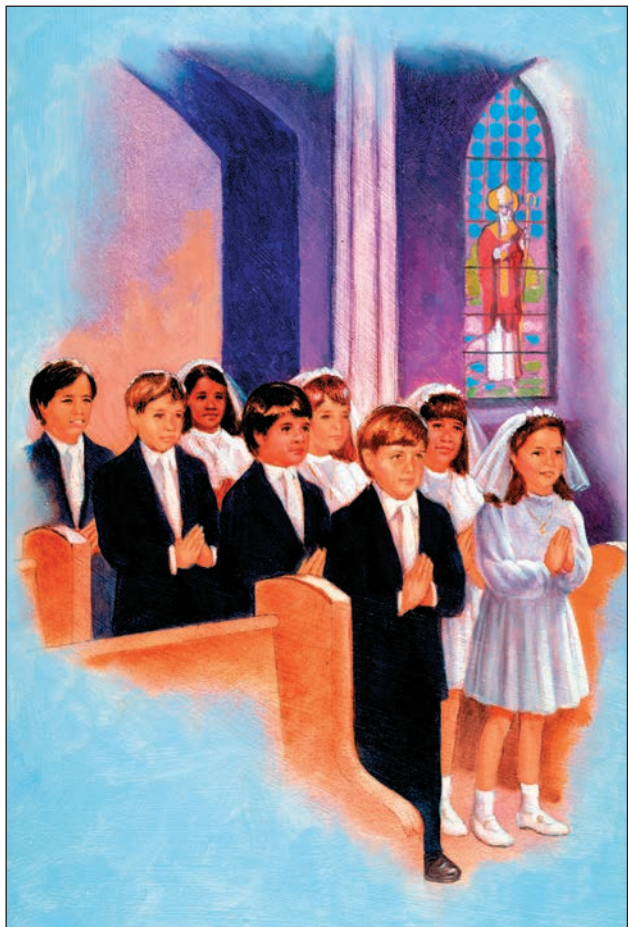
Edited By  
**Rev. Victor Hoagland, C.P.**

Illustrated By  
**George Angelini**



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# THE ORDER OF MASS

## *THE INTRODUCTORY RITES*

When he has arrived at the altar, after making a profound bow with the ministers, the Priest venerates the altar with a kiss and, if appropriate, incenses the cross and the altar. Then, with the ministers, he goes to the chair. When the Entrance Chant is concluded, the Priest and the faithful, standing, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, while the Priest, facing the people, says:

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

Then the Priest, extending his hands, greets the people, saying:

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Or:**

**Priest:** Grace to you and peace from God our  
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Or:**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

In this first greeting a Bishop, instead of The Lord be with you, says:

**Bishop:** Peace be with you.

**People:** And with your spirit.

## THE CHURCH YEAR

The seasons of the Church are: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time.

Advent means coming. Each year for four weeks before Christmas, Christians prepare their minds and hearts for the birth of Jesus.

The six weeks before Easter are called Lent. For Christians, Lent is a time of special prayer, reflection and self-denial. The first Easter was the day Jesus fulfilled His promise and arose from the dead.

Pentecost celebrates the days the disciples were gathered together and the Holy Spirit entered them. The spirit gave them the courage to be like Jesus.

During the remaining weeks, a season called Ordinary Time, the Church invites us to learn more about Jesus and His Spirit in us.

## FAVORITE GOSPEL STORIES

The Gospels read at Mass are stories from the life of Jesus. They are chosen in accordance with the seasons of the Church Year. The Gospels rotate on a three year schedule: Cycle A, Cycle B and Cycle C.

The following selection is a brief introduction to the Church's large number of Gospels. Read these and other stories from the New Testament as often as you can.

Always be attentive and listen carefully during Mass. The more Gospel stories you read and hear, the closer you will be drawn to Jesus; He will send the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with love and wisdom.