Dear Padre.

My children, who go to Catholic school, refer to our Sunday celebration as the "Eucharist." I arew up calling it the "Mass." Why the difference?

Eucharist comes from the Greek word eucharistein. This word simply means "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we Catholics celebrate, we give thanks to God for giving us Jesus. We also give thanks to Jesus, who shares his Body and Blood with us. "Eucharist" was used to describe the early Church's gathering. where the people repeated the stories of the Lord and shared the bread and wine, as the Lord commanded them to do.



The word mass comes from the Latin word missa, which means "the sending." This refers to the words of dismissal at the end of Mass. The priest or deacon invites us to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord." In the Latin Mass, this phrase is "ite missa est." No one quite knows why the Eucharist came to be known as the "missa" or "mass." Some think it is because of the way monastic prayers were conducted in the early Middle Ages. When the monks gathered for prayers, they often concluded with a short eucharistic celebration. These celebrations sometimes lasted only ten minutes or so, and as they marked the end of the whole set of prayers, they signaled the end of the service. This, it is suggested, is why the Eucharist came to be known as the "dismissal," or the "Mass."

- The Redemptorists DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to *DearPadre.ora* to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

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December 19 Advent Weekday Jas 13:2-7, 24-25a lk 1.5-25

December 20 Advent Weekday Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38

TUESDAY

December 21 Advent Weekday Sa 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

December 22 Advent Weekday 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56

FRIDAY

December 23 Advent Weekday Mal 3:1-4. 23-24 Lk 1:57-66

SATURDAY December 24

Advent Weekday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79

SUNDAY

December 25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 In 1:1-18



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love.

> HOMILY, MASS FOR BEGINNING OF PETRINE MINISTRY, MARCH 19, 2013



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