Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine. How does this happen?

Transubstantiation: Conversion of one substance into another.



Jesus shared this meal with His disciples. Catholics believe that Jesus took the bread and wine and changed its very substance. Visibly, everything stayed the same, but the substance was changed into Jesus' body and blood.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

To begin the celebrant, acting in the person of Christ, invites parishioners to join him in lifting our hearts to God. We end by affirming that all glory belongs to God. The great miracle of our faith is what happens in between. The Church implores the power of the Holy Spirit that the gifts offered become Christ's Body and Blood.

Holy Communion

The Communion Rite begins with the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught this prayer to his disciples when they asked how to pray. The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread as the people sing "Lamb of God." The people approach the altar and, bowing with reverence, receive Holy Communion--the body and blood of Jesus.



By Jamie Beal