

The New *Roman Missal*:

As you may have heard or read, some of the words of the prayers of the Mass have been revised. The Vatican has approved revisions in *The Roman Missal*, the book that the priest uses to pray the words of the Mass. With the other dioceses in the United States, our parish will begin to pray the revised texts of the Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. The United States is not the only country making these changes. The words prayed in the Mass are being revised around the world, no matter what language is spoken. By the nature of the language in some parts of the world, though, the revisions are less extensive.

What differences will we hear in this translation? This version will be more formal in language, “*more difficult to understand*” and richer in scriptural images. Some of the words in the Gloria; Creed; Holy, Holy, Holy; and Memorial Acclamations will be different. Our response to “The Lord be with you” will change; and the “Lord, I am not worthy...” acclamation will be different. The Mass parts, the Gloria, the Holy, Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation and the Great Amen, will be assigned new musical settings.

Change, as we all know, is a part of life. Nothing stays the same, locally or globally. We are not the same Catholic people we were only a few years ago. It is likely that we all have grown in our holiness and in our faith and understanding of God. After praying the same words of the Mass for so many years, both the priest and the people will have the opportunity once again to be more conscious of the words we pray.

As a parish, we will continue to publish articles in the bulletin explaining the changes that are coming. In September, the parish will make available several pamphlets and booklets about the changes that you may take home to study and reflect upon. In September, we will also begin to use some of the new sung Mass parts so that by the first Sunday of Advent they will have become familiar and easily sung by all of us. We will also have two speakers coming to our parish in October to further enrich our understanding of these changes.

As with all changes, it will take time to adapt. But we will adapt to the changes easier if we understand them. Just as we do anything new in life, it takes time to adjust. Just think of the other changes we have made in our parish over the years and how we now see them as “always having been done that way.”

Let us pray that we are open to the Holy Spirit in exploring these revisions in the prayers of the Mass.