

PREPARING FOR THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MASS

Article 1 of 12

What Will Be Happening with the Prayers at Mass?

On the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, Catholic parishes in the United States will begin praying the texts of the Mass using a new English translation of the Roman Missal. The Roman Missal is the large book that we are accustomed to seeing the priest use at our Eucharistic liturgies. It contains the official prayers of the Mass. In the early part of this century, the late Blessed Pope John Paul II called for the original Latin Missal (the official prayer book for Mass for the entire Catholic Church worldwide) to be re-translated into the various languages prayed throughout the world. He and other Church leaders felt that our current English translation could be improved. He called for new translations that would be much more faithful to the original Latin texts, so that all Catholics throughout the world would become more closely united by praying translations that were closer to the original. The words that we pray at Mass express our beliefs; it is important that the translations capture and express these beliefs clearly. The translation process has come to a culmination now, and on the First Sunday of Advent we will begin using this new translation at Mass.

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