

PREPARING FOR THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MASS

Article 5 of 12

The Liturgy of the Word

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. This week, we explore the Liturgy of the Word.

We know from the Gospels that Jesus himself listened to the inspired word of God and let it shape and form him. Through the liturgy, we do the same. The readings we hear at Mass can teach us, but that is not their primary function. Rather, the scriptures are meant to reveal the Lord to us, to let us experience God's presence, and to form us in our Christian identity. In the readings proclaimed at Mass, we hear the voice of Christ himself, and we recognize the story of God acting in the past and in our own lives as well. The homily helps us to see these connections more clearly. Then through the Profession of Faith (Creed) and the Prayer of the Faithful, our response to the readings prepares us to enter into the Eucharistic Prayer that follows.

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