



# Introducing the Revised Roman Missal

**John Mark Klaus, TOR**

*(Editor's note: Father John Mark Klaus, TOR, has written the homily below for priests to adapt in their parishes. The homily was written to help priests explain the meaning of the recognitio of the third edition of The Roman Missal.)*

**A**s you may have heard, we will begin to use a new translation of the Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. This is because we have received a new English-language translation of the third edition of *The Roman Missal*. The Bishops have been working on this translation of *The Roman Missal* since Pope John Paul II announced a revision of the Missal in 2000.

No significant changes have occurred in the Mass, since the Mass began to be prayed in the vernacular after the Second Vatican Council. Because of this, you are probably wondering how this translation will affect the way we celebrate the Mass in our parish.

One thing that has not changed is the structure of the Mass. There still will be two major parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Our postures—sitting, standing, kneeling, singing, listening, proclaiming, and praying at Mass—will also be the same. What will change are some of the words we hear, some of our responses, and some of the parts of the Mass that we sing. With these changes, we as a parish will be more conscious of how and what we are praying during the Mass as a community.

We will not be making this change immediately. We will pray these revised prayers of the Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. There will be plenty of time for workshops in our parish to help us better understand the changes and the reasons for these changes.

Change is hard on all of us, and perhaps some of the responses may sound different for a while until we adjust. The priest's parts also will change, so we need to be patient with each other.

There will be many resources that our parish and diocese will use to help us understand the Mass better. We will also have sheets available in the pews with the new responses to the prayers until we are comfortable with them.

We will continue to discuss our preparations as the weeks and months go by, so we will be ready to implement these changes in our parish.

But most importantly, we will pray that we remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit within our Church.

