

PREPARING FOR THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MASS

What Is a Roman Missal?

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* contains what the Church refers to as the “proper” antiphons for entrance and Communion time (in the United States, with the approval of our bishops, we commonly substitute hymns and songs for these “proper” antiphons). The Missal also contains prayers such as the Sign of the Cross and the greetings used at Mass. The opening prayer or Collect, the prayer over the bread and wine at the preparation of the gifts, and the Prayer after Communion are all found in the Missal, as are the different Eucharistic Prayers that are used at Mass and the blessings at the end of the liturgy. The Missal also contains all of the parts of the Mass that the people say or sing, such as the “I confess,” the Gloria, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Lamb of God, and our other responses. Some of these prayers are changed with the new translation; others remain the same.

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