

PREPARING FOR THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MASS

Why a New Translation?

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*. Many people have wondered why the Church is implementing a new translation of the prayers of the Mass. The Mass is the very core of Catholic life; its prayers express our Catholic beliefs. The more clearly we can express those beliefs, the more our faith can grow and be nourished. When the Mass was first translated into English some forty years ago, it was understood that the translation would have to be assessed and revised from time to time. Since then, a number of Church leaders, most prominently the late Blessed Pope John Paul II, have expressed the opinion that the 1960s translations of the Latin were done in haste. After the Second Vatican Council, when the Church throughout the world began praying the Mass in the languages of the people rather than in Latin, translations from the Latin were in immediate demand. In contrast, the new translation that we will now be using has taken nearly a decade to produce and, as Pope John Paul II desired, it is closer to the original Latin.

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