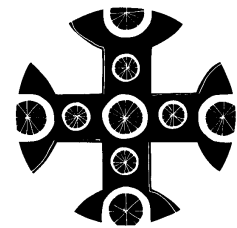


Easter Message about Changes to the Mass

Happy Easter! The Archdiocese of Newark is happy that you could join us today for Easter Mass. This is a very special time of the year during which the Church recalls the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son. It is a joyous time for the People of God, and there is no better way to celebrate the resurrection than by attending Easter Sunday Mass.

On Easter Sunday, many Catholics attend Mass even if they do not normally do so year round. If it has been a while since you last came to Mass, please know of the Church's great desire to see you here every Sunday throughout the year. At Mass, we hear God's word and we celebrate the Eucharist, and those are two of the best ways to grow in faith, worship God, and discern what God is asking of us and our lives.

It is very important that Catholics participate in the Mass when they attend. This is done by responding to the greetings and prayers; by singing the songs and acclamations; by praying quietly and reflecting on the word of God; and by participating in the Eucharist. Soon, there will be some changes made to the words we use at Mass. It is important that all Catholics be aware of these changes so that they can continue to actively participate when going to church.



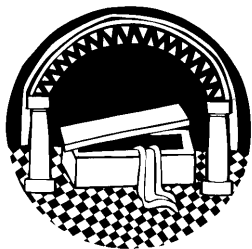
The book that contains all of the prayers for Mass is called the *Roman Missal*. It is first published in Latin by the Vatican and then translated into the local languages of the world for use at Mass. On November 27, 2011, the English speaking Church in the USA will begin using a new English translation of the *Roman Missal*. This new translation will sound different than the one we are currently using.

The current translation translated the *meaning* of the Latin words into English. The new translation will translate the *words* more literally from Latin into English. For example, when you come to Mass, one of the first things you hear a priest say is the greeting at the beginning: "The Lord be with you." It is a common church greeting to which the people respond, "And also with you." Soon, though, the response of the people will change from "And also with you" to "And with your spirit." This is because in the Latin the response is *Et cum spiritu tuo* which is literally translated into English as "and with your spirit."

It will take some time to get used to these changes and parishes will provide texts with the new words for the people when they are first put into use. Initially many will need to read the responses, but it should not take long before they are committed to memory and we can once again respond as freely as we do now.

If you are interested in seeing what more of these changes will look like, you can visit these websites:

www.usccb.org/romanmissal/
www.RomanMissalNewark.org



What is most important is that Catholics come to Mass each Sunday and participate in the Eucharist through song, word, action and reflection. At every Mass we experience the resurrection of Christ not as a one time historical event, but as a living reality in our lives and in our time. Have a blessed Easter and hope to see you again next Sunday!