



Welcoming the ROMAN MISSAL THIRD EDITION

Deepen, Nurture, Celebrate

Liturgy and Ritual

Corinna Laughlin and Jill Maria Murdy

Our Catholic liturgy is filled with ritual actions. We make the Sign of the Cross, bow, genuflect, and share the peace. We stand in praise or attention and sit to listen. We kneel in adoration. We move to the altar in procession. We sing hymns and Psalm refrains, and speak ritual responses. Our liturgical rituals, like the other rituals of our lives, are second nature to us. With the revised translation of *The Roman Missal*, there are no changes to our ritual actions at Mass—the gestures and postures which help us enter fully into the celebration of the Eucharist. But some of the familiar spoken and sung responses will be changing. No matter how well we prepare, there will be awkward moments when it is difficult to remember phrases that are new to us. What was familiar will be unfamiliar and new for a while. Knowing about the revisions in advance will help you prepare for them: mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Let us open our ears and hearts to the revised translations, and let them lead us to new insights about our unchanging God.

*Preparing Your Parish for the Revised Roman Missal:
Homilies and Reproducibles for Faith Formation*

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How Does the Liturgy Shape Our Lives?

Corinna Laughlin and Kristopher W. Seaman

Eucharistic Prayer II proclaims that the Lord is holy and “the fount of all holiness,” a marvelous image of God’s overflowing love, goodness, and truth. God freely pours out holiness on all who seek it. Through our participation in the liturgy, we can grow in that holiness to which the Triune God calls us. We, too, must become fountains of holiness, sharing compassion, goodness, and truth in our daily lives. To paraphrase Saint Augustine, *we are to become what we pray*. When we come to the celebration of the liturgy with hearts and minds open to God’s will for us, our faith is strengthened, our souls are nourished, and we are transformed, sent forth to serve our neighbor and to grow in unity with one another and with the Lord. In this way, the liturgy shapes our very lives. The rich texts, symbols, music, space, environment, and gestures communicate God’s call to us to become what God intends: his holy people.

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