

Bulletin Inserts on the New Roman Missal

March 2011

In preparation for the implementation of the new Roman Missal in November, we're encouraging parishes to include a short blurb in their bulletins each week. The Office of Worship will send suggested bulletin inserts monthly. Since this is an excellent opportunity for catechesis on the liturgy, some blurbs will focus specifically on the upcoming changes; others will focus on our celebration of the Eucharist in general.

Below are the bulletin inserts for March 2011:

Sunday, March 6, 2011

On Sunday, November 27 of this year, Catholics in the United States will begin worshiping with the newly-translated texts of the third edition of the Roman Missal.

The readers in your parish find the readings assigned for each day of the year in a liturgical book called the lectionary. The reforms of the Second Vatican Council sought to open up the treasures of the Bible more fully to the faithful. To give Catholics this broader exposure to sacred scripture, the cycle of readings repeats every 3 years for Sundays (Year A, Matthew; Year B, Mark; Year C, Luke, with parts of John read every year during the Easter season) and every two years for weekday readings. If you went to Mass every day for three years, you would hear a large portion of the Bible proclaimed.

Sunday, March 13, 2011

On Sunday, November 27 of this year, Catholics in the United States will begin worshiping with the newly-translated texts of the third edition of the Roman Missal.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues till the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening. In Lent, most of us "give up" some good things, and in the liturgy we do the same. We give up the Gloria, our ecstatic song of praise, except on the solemnities of Joseph (March 19) and the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25). And we give up the Alleluia without any exception at all. In the early church, the Alleluia was sung only on Easter. Eventually it became a regular part of the liturgy, except during Lent. The omission of the Alleluia marks this liturgical season in a most powerful way. And the return of the Alleluia becomes an unmistakable sign of Resurrection and joy at the Easter Vigil.

Sunday, March 20, 2011

On Sunday, November 27 of this year, Catholics in the United States will begin worshiping with the newly-translated texts of the third edition of the Roman Missal.

While in many languages the word for Lent refers to the 40 days that make up this season (*Quadragesima, Cuaresma, Careme*), in English, the derivation is quite different. Lent comes from an Old English word that means "springtime" (the same root gave us the word *lengthen* – in spring, the days get longer). What if we looked at Lent as a season for growth: a season of planting and of slow, quiet development in our spiritual lives? Nourished during this season by prayer and meditation on God's word, strengthened by

the discipline of fasting, stretched by our generous almsgiving and service to others, we will be ready to blossom into the new life of Easter.

Sunday, March 27, 2011

On Sunday, November 27 of this year, Catholics in the United States will begin worshiping with the newly-translated texts of the third edition of the Roman Missal.

In the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal, there are few changes being made to the Liturgy of the Word (the readings, Gospel, homily, creed and prayer of the faithful). The one exception is the Creed. When the revised translation is implemented, we will be using a revised text for the Creed we recite each Sunday. You will probably notice more changes in this text than in any other words you say at Mass. The guiding principle for the revised translation of the Roman Missal is to make the English closer to the Latin original. Catholics profess the Creed each Sunday in various languages all around the world. Especially for this part of Mass, it is important that we all say the same words; there is one faith. The words we say to profess our faith are changing, but our faith is staying the same.