



Church of St. Patrick | 6820 St. Patrick's Lane | Edina, MN 55439 | 952.941.3164 | www.stpatrick-edina.org



Understanding the Revised Mass Texts

New words...deeper meaning...same Mass

The issuance of the third edition of the Roman Missal reflects a new understanding of translation principles . . . The desire is to provide a more beautiful and more exacting language of prayer.

Why a new Missal now?

During his long pontificate, our late Holy Father, John Paul II, added many new saints to the Roman calendar. As a result, in the year 2000, he approved a third edition of the Roman Missal in Latin to include Mass texts for all these new saints. The Latin Missal is the source of the translations into all the vernacular languages.

A little later, the Vatican congregation that oversees the Liturgy, The Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, that had already been working on a revision of the guidelines for use in translating the liturgical books, issued a new guiding document, "*Liturgiam Authenticam*, On the Use of Vernacular Languages in the Publications of the Books of the Roman Liturgy." After March 2001 all new translations of the Latin Roman Missal had to follow these revised guidelines for translation.

The English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal reflects the new approach to translation—the technical name for which is “formal equivalence”—so as to make the English more accurately resemble the Latin. The desire is to provide a more beautiful and more exacting language of prayer. The goal, for those who pray as members of the Body of Christ, is that the prayer be “to the greater Glory of God (*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*).”

It has taken several years to translate the Missal from the original Latin into English, and the date of its use varies among the English-speaking countries, but here in the United States, the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, is the date set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for everyone to use the new edition of the Missal at Mass.

For more information visit: <http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/>