

# Understanding the New Roman Missal

## *The Liturgy of the Word and Profession of Faith*

In previous parish newsletters, we discussed the implementation of the new English translation of the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum* (Roman Missal) that will take place later this year, along with some of the changes Catholics can expect at Mass during the Introductory Rites. This month, we will focus on updates to the English text during the Liturgy of the Word and Profession of Faith.

The updated translation of the Liturgy of the Word is virtually identical to the previous translation that many of us are used to. Most of the changes to the new texts affect the priests and deacons who are celebrating Mass, and will barely be audible to the congregation. The two small exceptions will come during the exchange between the priest and the congregation prior to the Gospel reading.

When the priest or deacon addresses the congregation, he will still say, “The Lord be with you,” but those assembled will now respond, “And with your spirit,” as opposed to “And also with you,” to maintain the practice that was established during the Introductory Rites. Additionally, when the Gospel is announced, the congregation will now respond, “Glory to you, O Lord,” in place of “Glory to you, Lord.” As Fr. Paul Turner points out in *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts*, “The word ‘O’ has been added throughout the Missal before words such as ‘Lord’ and ‘God’ in sentences that are prayers. It slightly lengthens the one-syllable form of address to God, and intends to show respect” (Turner 17).

While the Liturgy of the Word will remain largely unchanged, the Profession of Faith is a different story. The Nicene Creed, which is the Creed that Americans usually proclaim at Sunday Mass (it’s not used at most weekday Masses), will contain the most noticeable shift in text of any part of the Mass said by the congregation. As with the rest of the Roman Missal, the goal behind these changes is to more closely adhere to the original Latin text, and to help Catholics throughout the world achieve a universal liturgical experience. As Fr. Turner says, “Catholics profess the Creed each Sunday in various languages all around the world. Especially for this part of the Mass, it is important that we all say the same words; there is one faith (see Ephesians 4:5)” (Turner 19).

Please note the sidebar for a side-by-side comparison of the previous translation and new translation of the Nicene Creed. For more information on this and other changes in the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum*, please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Web site at [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal).

### **Sidebar:**

## **The Nicene Creed**

### **Previous Translation**

**We believe** in one God,

the Father, **the** Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
**of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe** in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
**the only** Son of God,  
**eternally begotten of the Father,**

God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
**one in Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**  
**he was born of the Virgin Mary,**  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

**he suffered, died, and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**  
**in fulfillment of the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe** in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son

**he is worshiped** and glorified.

**He** has spoken through the Prophets.

**We believe in** one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge** one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for** the  
resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**New Translation**

**I believe** in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
**of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe** in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
**the Only Begotten** Son of God,  
**born of the Father before all ages.**

God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
**consubstantial with the Father;**  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
**and by the Holy Spirit**  
**was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,** and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
**he suffered death and was buried,**  
**and rose again on the third day**  
**in accordance with the Scriptures.**  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

**I believe** in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
**who** with the Father and the Son  
is **adored** and glorified,  
**who** has spoken through the prophets.

**I believe** in one, holy,  
catholic and apostolic Church.  
**I confess** one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins  
**and I look forward to** the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.