

## FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

I write this week to speak about the Liturgy and some changes that will take place as of next weekend (September 17-18). You may remember that there were some changes to liturgical practice back in the early 2000s when the new General Instruction to the Roman Missal (**GIRM**) was translated and instituted. Then, in 2011 we had the new translation of the Roman Missal, when we started saying, “And with your spirit.” You might ask why we have to change things again? The answer is that some of the changes were part of the earlier changes that for various reasons were not made at the time, and others were optional changes which didn’t get chosen. So what will these look like?

The biggest change that will affect the average parishioner is a change of *action*. After the Offertory (when the money is collected, the Gifts are presented, and the Altar is prepared), right now, the congregation stands *before* the priest says:

**Pray, brothers and sisters,  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God  
the almighty Father.**

The Roman Missal says that the people rise *after* the priest says this, but *before* they respond:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

I know this will cause some confusion at first, but we will practice before Mass (won’t that be fun), and I’ll keep reminding you for a little while. Now, don’t be thrown off ... my hands will reach out in an invitation to pray (as they have been), but will not be telling you, “Stand up right now!” In a short time, it will become as natural as, “And with your spirit.”

You may also notice some other changes in practice in the Mass. For instance, the GIRM says that the collection basket is to be placed in a suitable place away from the Eucharistic Table (GIRM 73). The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion now come to the foot of the Sanctuary, but not enter until after the priest receives Communion. When we don’t have a Deacon serving at Mass, you may see me disappear for a moment after the Sign of Peace, as I will be going to the Tabernacle to bring the ciboria with the Eucharistic to the Altar (GIRM 162).

In order to help remember the sacredness of the Eucharistic Liturgy, and in conformity with the GIRM, we will begin using a chalice veil. The chalice veil is a veil that covers the chalice, of the liturgical color of the day (in other words, it will match the color of my vestments). The GIRM says that it is “praiseworthy” to use the chalice veil (GIRM 118).

With the exception of when you stand after the Offertory, these changes will not be very hard, but they are designed to help us be in more union with the Church’s practice and spirit – minor, but significant! My hope is that they will draw us more deeply into the mystery of the Eucharist, the gift of God’s very presence and love in our midst each day.