

Changes in the Liturgy of the Mass

By. Msgr. Kevin Ryan

This weekend I am speaking at all of the Masses at St. Mark the Evangelist on the changes that will take place in the Liturgy of the Mass. These changes will take place on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27th) 2011. Many of you may remember the changes that took place in the liturgy after the second Vatican Council. On that occasion we changed from the language of the universal church to the language of the people, the vernacular. That was a difficult change for many people. Many of you will be experiencing change for the first time. The good news is that there will be less changes for our parishioners than for the priests.

I do not expect that these changes will be a burden for this community of St. Mark because of our active and full participation in the liturgy.

In order to accomplish a smooth transition from the present liturgy to the new translation of the Mass

I would like to share some thoughts for us to keep in mind.

1. The heart of the liturgy remains the same. We come together as a community to hear the word of God and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. This remains, it does not change.

2. The new translation is intended to enhance our worship and deepen our participation in our faith.

3. It is possible that over the years we have grown so familiar with the Mass that our responses are made without fully being aware of the importance of the words we are saying. This is a time for all of us to learn more about the prayers and structure of the Mass. We have an opportunity now to take advantage of the information available that will help us to deepen our understanding of the Mass.

In the English speaking world several groups have been working for a long time to make this translation possible. Scripture scholars, linguists, liturgists and translators all have brought their expertise together to make this

translation available for us. This translation is a result of many years of study, reflection and prayer. This translation is on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops website. www.USCCB.org.

Materials helping us in our understanding of the new translation can be obtained from catholic bookstores in the city. Liturgical publishing companies also have information on the new translation.

Here at St. Mark we will be assisting in every way possible to help one another at this time.

Materials will be available through the parish. Mass cards or Booklets will be provided for all parishioners.

There will be presentations at Mass for seven Sundays. This information will be shared at the homily time. Every Sunday we will have a guest speaker beginning on the 16th/17th September. We will use our audiovisual equipment to help us communicate the information.

The newsletter will be used. There will be information on our website.

We will place inserts in our bulletin.

We will be using the booklet Mass of Renewal by William Gokelman and David Kauffman. This booklet will be placed in our present hymnals Gather.

A video presentation entitled "A biblical walk through the Mass" will be presented. This will deal with the structure of the Mass, the origin of the prayers and the reasons for their presence in the Mass.

The adult formation department will present "The Third Translation of the Roman Missal."

This is a time for all of us to take the time to learn more about and reflect on the most important prayer that we pray together the Mass. This is a time for growth in our knowledge of the Mass. We have an opportunity to study about and learn about our community prayer. This time of change can affirm our faith and guide us closer to Christ in the Mass. Here we become community we answer the call to holiness. We become the body of Christ through hearing the word of God and sharing the Body

and Blood of Christ. When we pray the Mass we prepare ourselves to be sent on mission. Here we are called to serve one another in Christ. Here we learn to follow Jesus----to be his followers.

This is a time for all of us to make this transition a success. When we approach this time in prayer and with the desire to learn more about our community prayer the Mass I am confident that our parish will receive many blessings. I am looking forward to celebrating the new translation of the liturgy with all of you.