

MagnifiKid!

Dear Kids,

SOMETHING exciting is about to happen... On the First Sunday of Advent this year, we will begin to use new words for the Mass!

Hundreds of bishops and thousands of experts have been working for many years to make the words just right.

At last, the new books have been printed and we're ready to begin!



Why are They Changing the Mass?

It's very important to understand that the Mass itself isn't changing at all; only some of the words of the Mass are changing! The Mass itself will always be the highest form of prayer, the sacrifice of thanksgiving offered through Jesus, with him and in him. Still, we will have many new responses to learn in the months ahead. These changes are happening for several reasons:

► To Take Words from the Bible

Lots of expressions in the Mass come straight from the Bible, and it was sometimes not obvious in the old translation. Now, we will see more clearly that the prayers of the Mass come straight from the Word of God.

📖 **EXAMPLE**
FROM THE PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION:

BEFORE: *"Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."*

NOW: *"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof; but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."*



In chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, a centurion (an officer of the Roman Army) begs Jesus to heal his dying servant. The centurion does not feel so special that Jesus should come to his house, and he knows that Jesus is so great that he can be obeyed by just giving an order. So, in verse 8, the centurion says with great respect and humility, "*Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my servant shall be healed.*"

By praying the exact words of the centurion before we go to Communion (except for the words "my servant," which remain "my soul") we are saying that we believe in the power of Jesus, and we pray that God will heal us and come to us, just as he healed the centurion's servant.

► To Have a Special Way of Saying Things

The Mass needs a special style that makes it different from the way we ordinarily talk. Holy words should sound noble, and express our love and respect for the Lord. It is like dressing up for a wedding or some other special occasion: we want to dress up our words for Mass.

📖 EXAMPLE
FROM EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III:

BEFORE: *“from east to west...”*

NOW: *“from the rising of the sun to its setting”*



In Eucharistic Prayer III, the line, "so that from east to west a perfect offering may be made," has been translated with the more vivid and poetic words, "so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered." The bishops and experts have looked over everything in the Roman Missal (the big red book containing the prayers for Mass) to make sure that it all matches this beautiful way of saying things.

► To Say One Mass Throughout the World

The new words of the Mass are closer to the original texts written in Latin. This means that Catholics will be saying the exact same things to God in every language throughout the whole world!

📖 EXAMPLE
FROM THE GREETING RESPONSE:

PRIEST: *The Lord be with you.*

BEFORE:

“And also with you.”

NOW: *“And with your spirit.”*

The original text of the Mass said: *“Et cum spiritu tuo”* and the new translation *“And with your spirit”* is its exact match. It also matches the way it is said in French, Spanish, Italian, and many other languages!



More to Come

There are many other new responses that we will discover as we begin to pray them. It will take some time to get used to them, but soon we will know them all by heart. Even if some things seem difficult to understand at first, don't worry—MagnifiKid! will be there to help!

May this exciting moment in the life of the Church enrich your prayer and deepen your love for the Lord.

For a complete explanation of the new words in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal, your parents can order:

*The MAGNIFICAT Roman Missal
Companion*

at www.magnificatmissal.com