

# THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

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## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED *ROMAN MISSAL*

As we approach the weekend of November 27 and the use of the revised *Roman Missal* (in less than 50 days!), a few liturgical and housekeeping items, about which groups in the Archdiocese have been inquiring:

### PRAYERS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE REVISED *ROMAN MISSAL*

Certainly all the preparation, workshops, articles, practice sessions, etc. have been helpful to ready the People of God for the introduction of the revised *Roman Missal*. Of course, our first and foremost method of preparation is always prayer. We therefore ask that in October and November every parish include one or both of the following in their Prayers of the Faithful, asking for guidance and intercessions as we implement the revised *Missal*:

- That our parish community and the Archdiocese of San Francisco will gain greater appreciation of our union with the Church throughout the world as we prepare for the reception of the revised *Roman Missal*, we pray to the Lord...
- That we move toward the implementation of the revised *Roman Missal* with open hearts, charity, and hope as we learn and grow as one body in faith, we pray to the Lord...

On the weekend of November 27 (and perhaps for the rest of Advent), this prayer or a similar one asking for unity and open hearts and minds is suggested:

- For the English-speaking Catholic Church as we implement the revised *Roman Missal*, that with the help of the Holy Spirit to guide us, we allow the wonder of words, language and poetry to speak to us as we pray together, we pray to the Lord...

### ROMAN MISSAL ORDERS

For those who ordered copies of the *Roman Missal* via the Office of Worship, large shipments have begun to arrive from the publishers (who were prohibited from shipping until this week). We are sorting them, ensuring we have all the copies ordered, and will be sending each parish instructions on picking up their order from the chancery offices.

### BLESSING OF THE *ROMAN MISSAL*

The *Roman Missal* is a liturgical item and therefore should be blessed before its use. Attached is the Order of the Blessing of Articles for Liturgical Use. We encourage every parish to perform the blessing during a Sunday mass so that the largest number of parishioners can participate. November 20, the Feast of Christ the King, would be an appropriate occasion to perform the blessing, and an excellent opportunity for catechesis on the revised *Missal*.

A *Missal* should be blessed only once. If your parish has several new *Missals*, we suggest that a different *Roman Missal* be blessed at separate masses so that as many liturgies as possible include the rite. Note that the *Missals* need to be blessed before they are used (before a mass said according to that *Missal* has begun), so blessing the *Missal* on at the beginning of Mass on November 27 and then using that book for the rest of mass is not permitted by the Rite.

### DISPOSAL OF OLD *MISSALS*

*Missals* are sacramentals and therefore should not be thrown away by ordinary means. The proper disposal of sacramentals is by burning or burying. Each institution has several options for disposing of

the *Missals* (this applies both to those being used now as well as previous editions from years past you may have on dusty shelves):

- Burn or bury the *Missals*.  
This should be done on church property. If a parish is used to burning palms and “making” their own ashes for Ash Wednesday, the ashes from the burnt *Sacramentaries* can be used in 2012. (We caution parishes to be very circumspect if they will be burning old editions as obviously “book burning” has many negative connotations and can cause scandal if not done appropriately and preferably in private.)
- Bring books no longer in use to the Chancery.  
We will be collecting all old volumes at the front desk through January. Simply drop them off and we will ensure that they are properly disposed of. You are welcome to bring current *Sacramentaries* as well as any other ritual books that institutions may still have that were never discarded, such as old editions of the 1962 *Missal*, 1975 *Sacramentary*, *Lectionary*, etc. which you no longer use.
- If you wish to retain a copy of the current *Sacramentary* for reference, this is permitted as long as it is maintained in a respectful and secure environment such as a parish or school library.
- Clearly, selling *Sacramentaries*, giving them to persons not affiliated with the church, recycling the paper, etc. are not permissible.

#### USE OF MEDIA IN CHURCHES

Several parishes have reported that they plan on using projection of texts to accustom their parishioners to the revised translations of the people’s prayers. Many parishes already do this and intend to continue to use their current set-up; other parishes are going to use projection temporarily while the congregation learns the revised wording and will cease once people are more comfortable. The use of projection is not to be entered into lightly, and should be done only with agreement of all related parties and with enough preparation and understanding that it does not detract from the liturgy. The Worship Commission will be issuing a policy on media within the liturgy for the Archdiocese next year, but in the interim, whether this is an old or new practice in your church, if your church plans to use projection there are several issues that must be considered. The list below is not exhaustive, but it does include some basic concerns for appropriate use of media in liturgy:

- Quality of projection: It is important that any projection can be clearly seen by everyone in the congregation. Placement of the projection, the type of equipment used, the size of the projection, lighting within the building, the style and theme of the slides and other factors all effect how easily read the text will be and the success of using the medium to encourage participation. Poor quality slides, equipment not up to the task, light reflection during masses during the day, etc. will all impact the quality of the results. Parishes must consider all these factors when deciding if and when projections will be used.
- Projection Ministers: The person who moves the slides and/or advances the computer animations should be carefully considered. It is not appropriate for a minister in the sanctuary to have this responsibility, nor is it reasonable to have someone already tasked with another key role (such as organist or choir director) to also have this duty. The person chosen for the task of managing the media should be focused solely on this job and have the necessary training and abilities to use the equipment properly.
- Practice: As with most things, practice improves performance. Presiders, choirs and other liturgical ministers should practice several times with all the slides, equipment and processes at different times throughout the day (to verify light reflection) and in many ways to ensure that the best and most fitting liturgy is celebrated. An hour before the anticipatory mass on November 26 is not the time to be working out the kinks to equipment, slides or data.
- Copyright: All texts of the mass are copyrighted by ICEL and the ICEL copyright (and in some cases the USCCB copyright) must be clearly shown. Use of the texts is free and a license is not

required, but the attribution must be shown. This of course also applies to all music which is projected for which both the copyright and license disclosure are always required.

- Back up: Power fails, bulbs burn out and computers crash; therefore it is essential that a manual, non-technological solution is always on hand should an emergency strike. It is not acceptable to leave parishioners 'in the dark' and unable to properly participate if equipment fails. missalettes, handouts, paper copies or the like need to be on hand in case needed at short notice.

As other subjects are brought to our attention, we will continue to communicate any policies or advice as we get closer to November 27. The Office of Worship and the Committee for the Support of Parish Liturgy are always willing to assist parishes and Archdiocesan institutions on matters relating to liturgy and the implementation of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*. Speakers, workshops and reference materials are available, without cost, for the missal implementation. Please contact the Office of Worship (415-614-5586) or visit our website ([www.sfworship.org](http://www.sfworship.org)) for information.

We continue to pray for a smooth implementation and for this time of change to be a catalyst for growth and a deeper appreciation for the liturgy among the people of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



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## ORDER OF THE BLESSING OF ARTICLES FOR LITURGICAL USE

(from the BOOK OF BLESSINGS)

- 1348 In the homily after the reading of the word of God, the celebrant explains both the biblical readings and the meaning of the blessing.
- 1349 After the general intercessions, assisting ministers or representatives of the community that has provided the articles to be blessed bring them to the celebrant.
- 1350 In the following or similar words, the celebrant prepares those present for the blessing:  
Brothers and sisters,  
this missal that has been brought forward will receive a special blessing,  
in order to indicate that it is to be set aside exclusively for divine worship.  
Together, then, let us pray that God will strengthen us by his blessing.  
Let us ask that he who alone is holy may make us holy and worthy,  
so that we may celebrate the liturgy with reverence and devotion.
- 1531 The celebrant then says  
Let us pray.  
All pray briefly in silence; then, with hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing:
- 1353 For hymnals or service books  
Lord God of glory,  
your Church on earth joins with the choirs of heaven  
in giving you thanks and praise.
- As we gather to worship you in wonder and awe  
may the song on our lips  
echo the music that swells in our hearts.
- Bless us as we use this missal  
and grant that we may glorify and praise you,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.
- R/. Amen.