



Changes in the Rubrics and Prayers for a Wedding Mass

The Office of Divine Worship would like to make you aware of changes to the rubrics concerning a Wedding Mass in the new *Roman Missal*. The *Roman Missal* was promulgated on November 27th, 2011. Changes in the rubrics and prayers contained within the missal for any of the liturgical rites of the Catholic Church immediately had precedence over the rubrics and prayers from the older rites. An example of this is contained in the Celebration of Marriage within Mass. This rite is currently being retranslated and possibly will be promulgated in the fall. Several new prayers are already included in the *Roman Missal* for this rite, see “Ritual Masses V. For the Celebration of Marriage.” These new prayers should be used in place of the old prayers contained in the *Rite of Marriage* ritual book. Additionally, there is a new rubric in the Missal, “The Penitential Act is omitted. The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.”

The Wedding Mass begins with the sign of the cross, the opening greeting of Mass, followed by an introduction to the Mass by the priest, similar to the introduction of the Mass of the day. The newly retranslated rite will have two sample introductions, one of which may be:

“We have come rejoicing into the house of the Lord
for this celebration, dear brothers and sisters,
and now we stand with **N.** and **N.**
on the day they intend to form a home of their own.
For them this is a moment of unique importance.
So let us support them
with our affection, with our friendship,
and with our prayer as their brothers and sisters.
Let us listen attentively with them
to the word that God speaks to us today.
Then, with holy Church, let us humbly pray to God the Father,
through Christ our Lord,
for this couple, his servants,
that he lovingly accept them,
bless them,
and make them always one.”¹

¹ The Gray Book, The Order of Celebrating Marriage, ICEL, Washington D.C, June 2013, p10.

This wording is only an example and no specific text is required here. This address is then followed by the Gloria, the Collect and the rest of the Mass. According to the USCCB, the Gloria has been added as a general rule to most Ritual Masses to elevate them closer to the level of a Feast.

The above text is contained in the ICEL gray book. The gray book follows the green book and precedes the white. After the white book is sent to the Holy See, the new edition of the rite is promulgated. The white book has already gone to the Holy See and we are awaiting the promulgation for both Marriage and Confirmation.

With the wedding season rapidly approaching, I have been asked several questions concerning these rubrics and prayers. I hope this clarifies a few of them. Please don't hesitate to forward any other questions to my attention.

Yours in Christ,

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