

Word on Worship

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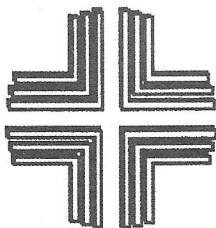
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Homily for November 6, 2011 *A Change is Coming*

HOMILIES TO INTRODUCE THE *ROMAN MISSAL*

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal directs that the homily "should be an exposition of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture or of another text from the Ordinary or from the Proper of the Mass of the day and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners." (GIRM 65)

With that in mind, the Office of Divine Worship commissioned four "sample" homilies for preachers to use during the final Sundays of preparation for the Roman Missal. All four are included in this edition of Word on Worship. Digital copies of these homilies are also available at www.RomanMissalNewark.org under the "Implementation Calendar" and the "Clergy" section. The homilies relate the implementation of the Roman Missal to the particular Gospels of the 32nd and 33rd Sundays in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King, and the First Sunday of Advent, respectively.

Ordinarily the preacher prepares his own homily and does not claim the work or words of another as his own. To help promote an understanding of the new translation and a readiness to begin praying with it, the Office of Divine Worship freely invites clergy to preach them as they are written or to adapt them.



Most people count down the shopping days until Christmas.

If are you one of those people, you know that as of today, Sunday, November 6, there are 48 days to shop between now and December 25.

But some people count the shopping days not before Christmas, but rather those before the start of Advent. If you are one of those people, you know there are 21 days before Advent starts on Sunday, November 27.

Those folks try to get their Christmas shopping done and their gifts wrapped before Advent begins so that the season can truly be what it is meant to be. Not a time just for shopping and increasing the hectic pace of life, but a time of peaceful reflection as we prepare to celebrate the day when God came to his people with a human face.

Those people who count the days before Advent are like the five wise virgins of today's Gospel. Those women knew the bridegroom was coming and they readied themselves to meet him. They came not only with their lamps but also with flasks of oil so their lamps would burn brightly. They had wisely purchased that oil ahead of time. They had prepared. They were not like the five foolish virgins who came with no oil for their lamps. When the bridegroom's imminent arrival was announced, those five ran to buy oil at the last minute, but they returned too late. The bridegroom had already arrived and they were left standing outside, looking in. They were unprepared. Foolishly unprepared for an event they knew was coming.

By now, all Catholics should know that something is coming on Sunday, November 27. Yes, Advent is coming and with it the beginning of the new liturgical year of 2012. But something else of importance will happen on that date. On Sunday, November 27, every Catholic in the United States, who attends a Mass celebrated in the English language, will hear words and phrases that will sound unfamiliar. Catholics will read words and phrases that they have not seen before in their worship aid or missalette.

You and I will notice a change that will be hard to miss. That change is coming as surely as the bridegroom in today's Gospel.

Rather than be like the foolish virgins who were unprepared for the arrival of the bridegroom, here at our parish, we have been following the example of the wise women whose lamps were burning brightly as they welcomed the arrival of the bridegroom. As you may have noticed, over the past several months, (there have been periodic articles in our Sunday bulletin) about the

In this issue: Homilies to Introduce the *Roman Missal* • *Roman Missal* Resources for Priests •
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