

Thoughts from Fr. Jim, Pastor, and Lynn Finegan, Director of Liturgical Music  
NEW Holy, Holy and Memorial Acclamation

On September 10th & 11th, 2011, here at St. John Vianney, we will resume singing the Mass of Creation. This is the most commonly sung Mass at our church... at weekend Masses, funerals, and wedding Masses – and the most commonly sung at Mass in Catholic churches within the United States!.

Since April 2011, two New Roman Missal changes were introduced at Masses that affected the Holy, Holy (Sanctus) and the Glory to God (Gloria). We learned to sing one version of the new Glory to God during the season of Easter (April 2011) the great feast of Pentecost – the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Christian Community (the Church).

We will sing this same Glory to God again on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus, Christ the King – the last day of the Liturgical Year, every liturgical year. (This year the feast of Christ the King falls on the weekend of November 19th-20th, 2011).

The Glory to God is not sung during the four weeks of Advent, which immediately follows the Solemnity of Christ the King and opens the first weeks of the new liturgical year. (“Advent” is an old English word that has its origins in the romance languages and refers to “one’s coming.” In our Christian use of the word, Advent anticipates – and prepares us – to celebrate the coming of Jesus’ birth.)

Singing the Glory to God (Gloria) on the Solemnity of Christ the King will refresh our memory of the new Glory to God so that we can appropriately sing with gusto and joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus – God made flesh! Of course, we will sing the Glory to God throughout the Christmas season. – at Christmas, and throughout the Christmas Season – through the Feast of the Holy Family, Epiphany, and ending with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord.

During this past spring and summer, we have sung the Mass of Glory. You learned new words, as well as a slightly changed melody for the first line of the Holy, Holy (placed in every bulletin since April). The rest of the Holy, Holy was the same as we had sung in past years. Perhaps by now the words of the first line of this Holy, Holy don’t feel so strange to sing: instead of “God of power and might”, we currently sing “God of hosts” [the angelic hosts].

So you have already learned two of the three changes that affect sung acclamations as a result of New Roman Missal changes.

All Masses, new or revised versions of the words and the music, are affected by the same change to the Holy, Holy (Sanctus) to the first line of text. But we have a head start since we have already learned the new Holy, Holy text!

On September 10th & 11th of this year, we will sing the very familiar Holy, Holy (Sanctus) of the Mass of Creation but you will experience the same change in text to the first line of words (instead of “God of power and might”, we will sing “God of hosts”).

There will also be a slight change in the melody to accommodate these new words. Before every Mass on September 10th & 11th, the cantor and choir will teach the first line of the Sanctus for the Mass of Creation. Once you finish the first line, the rest of the Sanctus is exactly as we’ve sung it in the past!

Printed below is the third (& last) change to sung

acclamations. All Masses, new or revised, are affected by the same new Roman Missal change to the Memorial Acclamation.

For the first time at St. John Vianney, on September 10th & 11th, we will sing a new Memorial Acclamation of the Mass of Creation. When we previously sang the Memorial Acclamation from the Mass of Remembrance last year, we used the prior text below. Note the new text... the changes in the texts are in italics, with the new wording in bold italics...

Prior text: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

New text & music on September 10th & 11th: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

The music for the new Memorial Acclamation in the revised Mass of Creation is a new arrangement of the music in order to incorporate the few, new words.

The cantor and choir will introduce and teach this new Memorial Acclamation. We will sing the Mass of Creation with this new Memorial Acclamation through Christmas. There will plenty of time to listen and learn this new acclamation.

In addition to the changes in the words and music in the Memorial Acclamation, you will notice that the Presider (the presiding priest) will introduce the Memorial Acclamation by singing (or saying) a shorter introduction. Now he will sing (or say): “The mystery of faith” – instead of “Let us proclaim the mystery of faith” prior to the Memorial Acclamation.

We are learning these changes now, in September, so that when the various changes in the Order of Worship for the Eucharist (Mass) are implemented throughout the United States on the weekend of the first Sunday of the new liturgical year (the 1st Sunday of Advent – November 26th - 27th) we will already have been singing them heartily!

On the weekend of the 1st Sunday of Advent we will also begin using several changes to some of the spoken responses, such as the response to the Presider words “The Lord be with you.” Now, as we have mentioned previously in bulletin articles of the past months, the assembly will respond with these words: “and with your spirit.”

In preparation for the implementation of all the modifications, we will continue publishing bulletin articles explaining the changes to the spoken responses. Throughout the coming months we will also be offering a variety of opportunities to help us to ease into the transition as well as to rejuvenate our understanding of – and participation in – the great gift of the celebration of Eucharist.