

# THE MASS—CONCLUDING RITES

May 10, 2015

## WHAT'S THIS?

The Mass consists of four main sections. They are:

- Introductory Rites;
- Liturgy of the Word;
- Liturgy of the Eucharist and;
- Concluding Rites

### Concluding Rites

The Concluding Rites include the announcements, final blessing and dismissal, and recessional. Just as the priest greeted the congregation at the beginning of the Mass, so now the presider greets the congregation again and blesses them. The word “Mass” comes from the Latin word, “*Missa*”. At one time the dismissal words were “*Ite, missa est,*” meaning “Go, you are sent.” The liturgy does not simply come to an end. Those assembled are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Eucharist to the world.

February 14, 2016

## WHAT'S THIS?

### Concluding Rites

The mission we are given to take Christ to the world and show his love to those we meet is expressed by the final, rather short section of the liturgy. As every communal experience begins with people gathering, so it must end with some kind of leave-taking or dismissal.

The Concluding Rites include:

Announcements  
Greeting and Blessing  
Dismissal

### Announcements

Right before or right after the Prayer After Communion, there is time for parish announcements. The placement of the announcements at this point in the liturgy reminds us of the links between worship and daily life. These should provide information about parish events, activities, opportunities, and programs or other important information. They offer members of the assembly ways that they can live out through the week the commitment they have made during the Eucharist, to imitate the Lord Jesus.

### Greeting and Blessing

Once again, the priest greets the assembly and then blesses them using a simple form or a more solemn blessing during various seasons or on feast days. In every case, the blessing always concludes “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” It is in the triune God and in the sign of the cross that we find our blessing.

### Dismissal

After the blessing, the priest dismisses the people. In fact, the dismissal gives the liturgy its name. The word “Mass” comes from the Latin word “*Missa*.” At one time, the assembly was dismissed with the words “*Ite, missa est,*” meaning “Go, you are sent.” The liturgy does not simply come to an end. Those assembled are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Eucharist to the world.

### Recessional

The priest again kisses the altar. Then, following a profound bow to the altar, the priest and liturgical ministers leave the altar and process out to the church entrance. A suitable closing hymn is played.