



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
1322 Moss Street (Office)
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119
Phone 504.488-2659 Fax 504.488-6741
www.ourladyoftherosary-no.org
Email: office@ourladyoftherosary-no.com

January 7, 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

During my Christmas homily, I referred to one of the “secret prayers” offered by the deacon or priest during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I thought I would take this opportunity to explain the other prayers that are prayed quietly during Holy Mass.

There are ten prayers that are said quietly by the priest as he offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. These prayers are said at several different times during the Mass. Since they are said quietly, most people may not even realize that the priest is saying them. However, I think it can give the faithful a better understanding of what is happening in the Mass if everyone is aware of what the priest is doing, even in the quiet prayers that he says.

The first quiet prayer is said before the reading of the Gospel. If a deacon reads the Gospel, this blessing is invoked upon him:

May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

If there is no deacon present, the priest says a similar prayer to prepare himself for the awesome task of proclaiming the Gospel:

Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel.

The next quiet prayer is said after the Gospel has been read and as the deacon or priest kisses the Book of Gospels:

Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away.

The next few quiet prayers are said at the time of the blessing of the bread and wine, just before the Eucharistic Prayer begins.

This prayer is said as the deacon or priest pours a small amount of water into the chalice filled with wine:

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

After the blessing of the bread and wine the priest prays that he and the faithful may be worthy of the sacrifice which is about to be offered:

With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Finally this prayer is prayed as the priest washes his hands in preparation for offering the Sacrifice. This cleansing is symbolic of being free from sin:

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

The rest of the quiet prayers are said during the Communion Rite.

During the Lamb of God, the priest breaks the host and then places a small piece of the Precious Body into the chalice with the Precious Blood while saying this prayer:

May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

Just before he says aloud “Behold the Lamb of God...”, the priest prays this prayer to prepare himself to receive the Body and Blood of Christ:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your Death gave life to the world, free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood, from all my sins and from every evil; keep me always faithful to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you.

These two short prayer are said immediately before receiving the Precious Body and the Precious Blood of the Lord:

May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Finally this prayer is be prayed while the priest or deacon purifies the sacred vessels that were used to hold the Body and Blood of Christ. This purification can happen at the altar or after Mass has ended.

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity.

These prayers are an important part of the priest’s ministry as he offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Hopefully, knowledge of these prayers can increase the prayer and reverence of all those who gather at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

To Jesus through Mary,



Fr. Jonathan
jhemelt@arch-no.org