



Mass Parts 47/52: *Prayer After Communion*

After the priest returns to the chair at the end of the Communion Procession, there is a time for quiet, personal prayer. The priest then stands and all stand with him. Much like at the opening prayer of the Mass, the invitation to prayer is given with the words: “Let us pray.”

I don’t say “Let us pray” as a signal to stand first, because then we are just standing up and watching the server come over with the book. “Let us pray” means just that: time for prayer. It is not a time for movement or putting on coats. Only after a moment of quiet recollection do I start the prayer. During this quiet time, we can use this chance to thank God for the gift of the Eucharist and the graces given at this Mass.

The prayer is always a summary of the Eucharistic ritual. It applies what we have done in the Eucharist to our lives. The prayer from this past weekend (24th Sunday Ordinary Time) was:

*May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray,
take possession of our minds and bodies,
so that its effects, and not our own desires,
may always prevail in us,
Through Christ our Lord.*

The official title of this prayer is the “Prayer after Communion.” Focus on this: the prayer AFTER Communion. It is not the closing prayer of the Mass. It is ending the Communion Rite. The time of quiet is not just time to wait to leave. There should be no announcements or further comments or speakers until after the prayer. We are still part of the Communion Rite at this time.

If there is a speaker or announcements, I will invite you all to be seated again after the prayer.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Dismissal