



Mass Parts 48/52: *Dismissal*

After the Prayer After Communion, there can be some announcements, but then comes the closing of the Mass. The Closing Blessing and Dismissal begins with the standard: “The Lord be with you” from the priest. The people’s response again recognizes not the person of the priest, but the sacramental character of Holy Orders within him: “And with your spirit.”

Sometimes there is a solemn blessing. It can be one line or three. This is where things can get confusing for most of us. Because these blessings are not that frequent, we get confused as to when we are supposed to say “Amen.” It is hard to indicate with the voice when it comes. Should I remind you before the blessing to say “Amen” after each invocation? Do I say “Amen” after the first invocation as a question? Do I say: “let the Church say ‘Amen’” after each? We’ll figure it out together. Here is a sample solemn blessing:

Priest: *May the Lord bless you and keep you.*

People: *Amen.*

Priest: *May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.*

People: *Amen.*

Priest: *May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace.*

People: *Amen.*

Only then do we receive the final Trinitarian blessing, where we sign ourselves again with the Sign of the Cross and respond: “Amen.”

Then the ending of the Mass and dismissal are announced. The very word “Mass” comes from the closing dismissal in Latin: “*Ite, missa est.*” “Go, you are sent.” The possible closings in English indicate the fullness of its meanings:

-Go forth, the Mass is ended.

-Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

-Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your Life.

-Go in peace.

The people then respond: “Thanks be to God.”

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: When is Mass over?