**Roman Missal: Mass Propers**

The Roman Missal is the book of prayers used by the priest during the celebration of the Mass. It is divided into two major parts: the Ordinary of the Mass and the Proper Prayers. The Ordinary of the Mass is composed of those prayers that remain the same each time the Mass is celebrated (for example, the Creed and the Our Father). We will discuss these in the next two weeks. This week, we will consider the Proper Prayers: those prayers that change from day to day, based on the Liturgical Season or Feast Day being celebrated.

Our English word “proper” comes from the Latin word *proprius*, which means “one’s own, or particular to itself.” Consequently, the “proper” prayers of the Mass are those that are particular to the Mass of that day. This includes the following prayers: Entrance Antiphon, Collect (Opening Prayer), Gospel Antiphon, Prayer over the Offerings, the Communion Antiphon, and the Prayer after Communion.

**Entrance** **Antiphon:** a brief text, usually from Scripture, read or sung at the opening of Mass.

**Collect**: the opening prayer of the Mass. After the praying or singing of the “Glory to God,” the priest says: “Let us pray.” At this time, he reads the Collect. Part of the reason for this term is that it *collects* all the prayers of those gathered into a single prayer.

**Gospel Antiphon**: a short verse (usually from Scripture) which is read or sung before the reading of the Gospel. This antiphon is part of the singing of the Alleluia.

**Prayer over the Offerings**: After the gifts of bread and wine have been brought forward and the altar has been prepared, the priest prays that the offering will be acceptable to God and offer him fitting praise.

**Communion Antiphon**: a short verse (again, usually from Scripture) which is read or sung at the time of communion.

**Prayer after Communion**: the closing prayer of the Mass, read just before the final blessing.