

Mass Series – Week 12

Dismissal

The Dismissal/Sending Forth is the closing rite of the Mass. It is a time when the priest blesses the assembly with the Sign of the Cross, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. After the blessing, we are sent forth with the words, “The Mass is Ended, Go in Peace!” The word “Mass” comes from the Latin *missa*, (“dismissal” or “sending”). This points to how the Mass is ultimately a sending forth.

The celebration of the Eucharist is called “Holy Mass” and it concludes with the sending forth of the faithful, so that they may fulfill God’s will in their daily lives.

Did you know? The Dismissal/Sending Forth dates back to the fourth century when the Latin words *Ite missa est*, were used for this purpose. The literal meaning of these words is “Go, you are dismissed.”

Good Practice Suggestion: Take the time at the end of Mass to allow the blessing of the priest to wash over you. Join in the Sending Forth hymn and remain in your pew until the Processional Cross (representing Jesus) has led the ministers out of the Church and each of us into the world.

As the Mass is ending, we experience the joy of the celebration, and we are sent forth to spread the blessing in our daily lives. And don’t forget, spreading the joy starts when we smile, wave and let our fellow worshipers get in line to exit the parking lot!

Kevin Burian, Liturgy Commission Member

Thank you for following our 12-week series. You can read the entire series at mmotc/synod.

If you have comments you wish to share about things you learned about the Mass, or have questions, please contact Roxanne Tozier, Parish Ministry Director, rtozier@mmotc.org, 952-890-0045.