

Series on the Mass, Part 77: Postcommunion Prayers

Sept. 19, 2021

The priest next goes to the missal and says “Oremus” (let us pray) and reads or sings the last of the three prayers proper to the Mass. These three Postcommunion prayers are a collection of the thoughts and desires of the faithful, which the priest presents to God on their behalf. The prayers are often very ancient and, although composed in times and circumstances different from ours, summarize beautifully what we need to pray for.

During Lent, there is added another prayer over the people immediately after the last Postcommunion prayer of the Mass. The priest repeats “Oremus” and then asks the faithful to bow their heads while this special prayer is said. The prayer is like an extra blessing during the fasting season to strengthen the faithful and help them accomplish their spiritual goals. Historically there were similar prayers throughout the entire year as a form of blessing before sending the faithful on their way.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP
Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish