

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THE MASS



Concluding Rite

This is article 21 of 22 of the Mass series

The Concluding Rite prepares the faithful to go out and share the good news of the Kingdom of God. There are two parts to the Concluding Rite

Announcements: The first part of the concluding rite is the announcements. These are optional. The announcements show what the parishioners are doing to serve others in the church and the world. It is advisable to keep them brief (Concluding Rite, 2018).

Final Blessing: The final blessing follows the announcements. A blessing is a gesture that calls upon and invokes the help of God upon the people to grant divine favor and sanctification. Like the beginning of the Mass, the final blessing is Trinitarian (Phillips, J., 2015).

There are three ways the final blessing can be offered:

1. The priest makes the sign of the cross over the people while each person present makes the sign of the cross themselves. Wholeheartedly we recall our Baptism into the Triune God and the mission to glorify God through our lives.
2. The priest or deacon will ask all present to bow down and the priest will give a series of three blessings. After each blessing, the congregation will respond "Amen."
3. A special form of blessing is given when the Bishop is present.

Bishop: "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

People: "Now and forever."

Bishop: "Our help is in the Name of the Lord."

People: "Who made heaven and earth."

Then the Bishop gives the final blessing.

This week's *In Spirit and Truth* is written by Sahaya Josephine