And with your spirit

The Lord be with you.
Dominus vobiscum.

And with your spirit
Et cum spiritu tuo.

'And with your spirit' is proclaimed by the assembly five times during Mass. We know from the Bible that repetition signifies something we should pay attention to. Thus, it's important to ask, why do we say this and when?

It is important to note that this is *the first dialogue* that takes place between the priest and the assembly at Mass, immediately after all make the Sign of the Cross, with the priest stating, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'' and all confirming, 'Amen." The Introductory Rites continue as the priest greets the assembly:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *[or options]* be with you; the assembly replies, "And with your spirit."

Options:

∗Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
∗The Lord be with you
∗(A Bishop say, "Peace be with you.")

By greeting the people with the words "The Lord be with you," the priest expresses his desire that the dynamic activity of God's spirit be given to the people of God, enabling them to do the work of transforming the world that God has entrusted to them.

The people respond, only to an ordained minister, "and with your spirit" — some scholars have suggested that spiritu refers to the gift of the spirit he received at ordination. In this response, the people assure the priest of the same divine assistance of God's spirit and, more specifically, help for the priest to use the charismatic gifts given to him in ordination and in so doing to fulfill his prophetic function in the Church.

The assembly also offers this response at these important times of Mass:

⇒ **Before the Gospel, the Deacon/Priest says, "The Lord be with you," and all respond:**
And with your spirit.

⇒ **At the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest says, "The Lord be with you," and all respond:**
And with your spirit.

⇒ **At the Sign of Peace, the priest say, "The peace of the Lord be with you always," and all respond:**
And with your spirit.

⇒ **The priest greets the assembly at the beginning of the Concluding Rites, "The Lord be with you," and all respond:**
And with your spirit.

The response et cum spiritu tuo is found in the Liturgies of both East and West, from the earliest days of the Church. One of the first instances of its use is found in the Traditio Apostolica of Saint Hippolytus, composed in Greek around AD 215.

Source: usccb.org