

Church Etiquette

For Catholics, the Mass is a very solemn and sacred event in which they are renewed in faith by their encounter with the real presence of Jesus Christ and grow as a community together with the universal Church.

When attending Mass, it is proper to do the following:

- ✓ Dress modestly and appropriately before the Lord.
- ✓ Arrive at Mass on time if not a little early. It is considered disrespectful to arrive after the Mass has begun.
- ✓ Make the sign of the cross with holy water upon entering the Church. Pick up a Missal so you can follow along with the priest during Mass.
- ✓ Men and boys, kindly remove hats or caps before entering the Church. Women are allowed to wear something covering their heads.
- ✓ Sunglasses are also inappropriate in the church unless for health reasons.
- ✓ Genuflect facing the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle before entering your pew. If unable to genuflect, a heartfelt bow is acceptable.
- ✓ Please turn off (or set to vibrate) all cell phones and electronics prior to entering the Church.
- ✓ Please be "prayerfully silent". Refrain from unnecessary talking as it distracts others who are intently praying and reflecting, including prior to the start of Mass.
- ✓ Join in the singing and sing your praises to the Lord. Give Him thanks.
- ✓ Listen to the readings as if God is speaking to you directly through His words.
- ✓ Do not chew gum, candy, or food etc. while in church.
- ✓ Catholics, receive Holy Communion with reverence by doing a reverent head bow before receiving Holy Communion. You may receive the Eucharist on the tongue or in your hand. If you choose to receive the Body of Christ in your hand, please be sure your hands are clean, and your right hand is under your left hand.
- ✓ If receiving Holy Communion on the tongue, please open your mouth wide and stick out your tongue so the priest or minister can place the Eucharist without having to touch your tongue with their fingers. Consume immediately.
- ✓ All others not receiving Holy Communion may receive a Blessing from the Priest by entering the Communion line, place your hands in a across over your heart and the Priest will bless you. Return to your seat when finished.
- ✓ The Mass is over when the Priest gives the final blessing. Please exit the church after the the celebrant has completed the recessional procession and during the final song before leaving.
- ✓ Please be sure to take all your belongings and leave the pew and return the Missal to the proper location so it is ready for the next Mass participant.