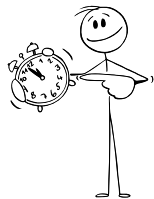




CHURCH ETIQUETTE REMINDERS

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Arrive at Church a little early to find a seat and pray silently before Mass begins.



As you might notice, singing is also a big part of our prayer at Mass. Do your best to **sing along and learn the hymns**. At Holy Cross, the words to the Scriptures and songs are printed on the large screens.



Before you leave your car, **silence your phone** so it does not interrupt Mass.



At the time of Communion, wait until the row in front of you stands and begins entering the aisle before you stand to leave your pew.

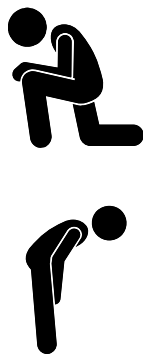


Bless yourself with holy water as you enter the Worship Area. It is easy here at Holy Cross as the Baptismal font greets us as we enter. With young children and babies, bless them with holy water too.



Be respectful as you approach the Priest, Deacon, or Eucharistic Minister for Communion. Bow before receiving the host, keep in mind you are standing before our Lord:

- Respond clearly when the minister says: "The Body of Christ" – you say: **AMEN**. Respond the same if you are receiving the Precious Blood from the Cup.
- Keep in mind when receiving the host in the hand, **place it in your mouth immediately BEFORE STEPPING AWAY**. Proceed back to your seat for your prayer of Thanksgiving.
- **Remain kneeling** until the Priest closes the Tabernacle and puts the remaining hosts away. It is now appropriate to be seated.



Show reverence when entering your pew by genuflecting (the act of bending the right knee completely to the ground), toward the Tabernacle. If you are unable to, bow always facing the front where the Tabernacle is located. Please note it is not necessary to do this at Communion time, just before and after Mass. Respect the movements throughout Mass of standing, kneeling, and sitting at the appropriate times.



There is usually a short period of time remaining after the distribution of Holy Communion. **Please be sure to remain in Church until the Priest processes out of the Church.** Be sure to greet Father on your way or stay and speak to other friends or when there is hospitality, enjoy a cup of coffee with other parishioners.

Try to sit quietly, participating in the prayers of the Mass and listening to God's Word as Sacred Scripture is proclaimed.



Have a blessed and peaceful week ahead!