

Proper Church Etiquette

Probably the most important duty that we each have as worshippers attending the church Services is to do all that is in our power to see that a proper decorum and atmosphere is maintained so that all of the Congregation is able to pray sincerely, peacefully, and meaningfully. With this in mind, we set forth the following suggestions:

Upon entering the church, at all times, but especially during Services, an individual should remember that he or she is in the *House of God*. Reverence and good manners are required so as not to disturb those who are already engaged in prayer, but, even more important, as an expression of sincere faith and awareness of the presence of the Lord. No irrelevant conversations should take place, either in the Narthex (near the front door) or in any other part of the Church.

According to actual Church Service procedures, each and every member of the Congregation is required to be seated in the pews at the beginning of the Service. It is only by leniency that anyone is allowed to enter the Church once the services have begun. Thus, it behooves us not to take undue advantage of this leniency. Please remember that the Parish Council Members are required to see to the order during Services and everyone should follow their directions.

There are various parts of the Service during which no one should be moving about. Whenever a person happens to be at these moments, he or she should stop and stand reverently until it is the proper time to proceed to the pew. The basic rule and the parts of the service are as follows:

- The basic rule to follow is that whenever the Priest is outside the Altar, either with the Censer or giving the Blessing, everyone should stand wherever they are.
- During the Procession of the Priest and Altar Boys with the Holy Gospel.
- During the reading of the Epistle and Gospel.
- During the Cherubic Hymn and the Procession of the Priest and altar Boys with the holy Gifts.
- During the recitation of the Creed (in which the whole Congregation should participate).
- During the Lord's Prayer (in which the whole Congregation should participate).
- During the Se Ymnoumen, and the prayers of the Consecration of the Holy Gifts.
- During Holy Communion.
- During the Sermon.
- During the Dismissal Prayers.
- During any special services (Memorial Services, Processions, Special Prayers, etc.).