

# Church Etiquette

## *Remember:*

- \* Let's feel relaxed and at home in church. This is God's house.
- \* Let's also show appropriate reverence in church: this is God's house!
- \* Let's too, show respect for the people gathered: we are the body of Christ!

## **20 tips:**

1. Genuflect when you enter/leave the church (right knee touches the ground). We can also bow towards the altar as a sign of respect.
2. Bless yourself with the holy water at church doors (a sign of our baptism).
3. Join in the singing: not only is it a form of prayer and praise of God, you will encourage others around you to participate.
4. Give strong verbal responses in the prayers of the Mass. Listen to the prayers/readings.
5. Offer the sign of peace with warmth; no dead-fish handshakes!
6. Smile!
7. Know the correct way to receive the host and chalice. (Refer to card)
8. If not receiving communion and you would like a blessing, know the correct way to come forward (hand/s on chest).
9. Greet people before and after Mass: they are the body of Christ!
10. Look out for visitors and welcome them.
11. Offer a hymn book or bulletin to a newcomer.
12. Be patient with people who seem to be having a bad day, e.g. overtired children and 'scratchy' parishioners.
13. Supervise your own children. High spirits is one thing, swinging from the rafters is another!
14. Be sensitive to other members of the congregation, just as we ask them to be sensitive to you.
15. Turn off your mobile phone before entering the church.
16. Take a parish bulletin, but don't read it during Mass.
17. With large crowds in church, pay attention to instructions and follow them.
18. Be mindful of why we come to church: to grow closer to Jesus *and* to one another.
19. Set an example for your child.
20. If you are unsure about any of the above, don't hesitate to ask. And if you make an honest mistake, don't worry. There's always next time.

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