

XIN CHÀO—WELCOME—BIENVENIDO

If this is your first time in our church, we thank you for joining us today and hope you come again soon. If you are wondering what to expect, or maybe don't remember all the prayers, chances are you are not alone. Below are some of the basics, and in the front of this book there is an outline of the Mass with all the responses.

If you **NEED HELP** please do not hesitate to ask one of the Ministers of Welcome to assist you in any way. They will be at the entrances of the church wearing a name tag.

RESTROOMS are located out the left side entrance of the church on the way to the "gathering space." A second set of restrooms is located at the main entrance of the church.

CHILD CARE is provided during the 8:30AM and 11AM masses in the nursery found out the left side exit of the church.

If you would like to know more about our **CATHOLIC FAITH**, or if you have been away for a while (welcome home!) please speak with a priest after mass or contact the parish office. Please see the bulletin for contact information.

The MASS

What to expect. The service usually contains these things: three readings from the Bible, a sermon/homily, the Eucharistic Prayer, the reception of Holy Communion, singing of hymns and songs.

You may see genuflecting (bending on the right knee), or bowing in the direction of the altar (the table up front). If you are not Catholic, do not feel awkward about not doing this.

Catholics believe God is literally present in the Eucharist. Genuflecting is simply a sign of deep respect for God and the Eucharist.

Feel free to sit anywhere in the pews. Consider sitting closer to the front, so that you can see what is going on.

Look for a board somewhere towards the front that has numbers on it. These numbers refer to the numbers in your hymnal. Feel free to join in with the singing; chances are, the church needs your voice.

In the pews in front of you, you will see many books. This book contains an outline of the Mass and songs. In the Breaking Bread book you will find a more detailed outline of the Mass, the readings for Mass, as well as many more songs. Please follow along in either book.

Standing, sitting kneeling.... All are welcome to join us as we kneel, stand, sit, bow, hold hands, or make gestures when the congregation does, but do not feel pressure to do any of these.

At one point, the priest usually says, "Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace."

The typical sign of peace is a light handshake accompanied by the phrase "Peace be with you."

Prepare for Communion. At the heart of the Catholic faith is the belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. Reception of Holy Communion signifies a profession of this core belief, and draws us deeper into this astounding mystery. It is a moment of profound unity with God and the Church. If you are not Catholic, and would still like to participate in this part of the liturgy, please come forward to receive a blessing from a priest or Eucharistic minister. To indicate that you would like a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest as you come forward. Or if you prefer, you may stay seated during Communion. We invite you to enter into a time of reflection, as we continue to pray together as a community.

Feel free to take a bulletin to read later and greet the Priest after Mass.