CHURCH ETIQUETTE

WE DO:

+ read the day’s Scriptures before arriving.
+ arrive on time.
+ dress modestly.
+ wear clean clothes.
+ get a drink of water and go to the restroom before Mass begins.
+ bless ourselves with holy water.
+ genuflect/bow before entering our pew.
+ invite Jesus into our hearts before Mass.
+ quietly repent of any sins during the Penitential Rite.
+ pay attention at Mass.
+ respond to the prayers.
+ listen to the homily quietly.
+ offer ourselves to the Lord during the Preparation of the Gifts.
+ thank God for all His goodness.
+ after Mass, go out and spread the Good News.

WE DON’T:

② come late.
② wear a hat (boys).
② dress inappropriately.
② chew gum.
② talk with others.
② bang the kneelers.
② allow ourselves to be distracted.
② distract others.

To use this booklet in a more interactive way:

For Younger Saints
1. Color the pictures throughout.
2. Memorize the shorter prayer responses.
3. Practice making the Sign of the Cross.
4. Locate the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) in a Bible.
5. Practice the prayers and actions of the Sign of Peace.
6. Practice genuflecting.

For Older Saints
1. Locate the Scripture readings in your Bible before Mass and follow along as they are being read.
2. Have someone quiz you on the different parts of the Mass and discuss what takes place during each.
3. Memorize all the people’s prayers and responses of the Mass.

For the Whole Family
1. Review church etiquette on the inside front cover, and have your children earn or lose points as appropriate for the behaviors listed. Award prizes each week or month or celebrate proper etiquette as a family with a special treat or reward.
2. Discuss the proper disposition and attention during the consecration and the Great Amen.
3. Volunteer to take up the gifts at the Offertory.
Glory be to God!
Amen!
Let's go and tell others about the love of Jesus!

ENTRANCE RITE

We begin each Mass with an Entrance Song and a greeting from the priest.

PRIEST: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen.

PRIEST: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

-or-
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

-or-
The Lord be with you.
ALL: And with your spirit.
**Penitential Rite**

*We now enter into the Penitential Rite, asking God to forgive us for any way we have offended Him. We want to enter into worship with clean hearts and pure minds, asking for the Lord’s mercy.*

Jesus, please forgive me for these faults:  
(Write in your own words the things you are really sorry for.)

**The Confiteor**

ALL: I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, Strike your breast as you say the following words: through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; and continue with: therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.”

Priest: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
ALL: Amen.

We leave renewed with the love of God and are sent out to serve others and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

These are the people I will tell about the Good News of Jesus:
Any announcements are made by the lector.

CONCLUDING RITE

THE BLESSING

PRIEST: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And with your spirit.
PRIEST: May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *(We make the Sign of the Cross.)*
ALL: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

PRIEST: Go forth, the Mass is ended.
-or-
Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
-or-
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
-or-
Go in peace.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

The priest kisses the altar, and he and the ministers process out.

We sing a closing song.

THE KYRIE

We ask Jesus to show us His mercy.

PRIEST: Lord, have mercy.  (or: Kyrie, eleison.)
ALL: Lord, have mercy.  (or: Kyrie, eleison.)

PRIEST: Christ, have mercy.  (or: Christe, eleison.)
ALL: Christ, have mercy.  (or: Christe, eleison.)

PRIEST: Lord, have mercy.  (or: Kyrie, eleison.)
ALL: Lord, have mercy.  (or: Kyrie, eleison.)
THE GLORIA

Now the Church sings the Gloria with all the angels and saints. We praise and worship Almighty God for all the blessings He gives us. We thank Him for His glorious deeds. We recognize God as the Most High—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We love You, God, and we sing Your praise, now and forever.

Note: During Advent and Lent, the seasons of waiting and preparation, we do not pray the Gloria.

Lord, I thank You and give You glory and praise for these things:

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You, we give You thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Write your own prayer for after Communion. Remember to thank Jesus for coming to you in this special gift of the Holy Eucharist.

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

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_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

When we return to our seat, we kneel and quietly thank Jesus for being the Lord of our lives and for coming to us in Holy Communion.

PRIEST: Let us pray.

THE PRIEST: The priest prays a prayer thanking God for His wonderful presence among us today.

ALL: Amen.

THE OPENING PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us pray. (The priest prays a prayer that collects all the prayers of the people.) ... through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.
The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading
We are seated and listen to the lector read the first reading, which is usually taken from the Old Testament. God speaks to us through the prophets.

At the end of the reading:
LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

The Responsorial Psalm
We respond to the first reading by repeating or singing the Responsorial Psalm.

The Second Reading
We listen to the lector read the second reading, which is usually taken from the New Testament. God speaks to us through His Word.

At the end of the reading:
LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Stand
The Gospel
We stand up and listen to the priest or deacon read the Gospel. Jesus Himself becomes present to us through His Word.

ALL: Alleluia (sung)
Note: During Lent and at other times, we sing a different chant.
PRIEST OR DEACON: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And with your spirit.

We silently and prayerfully enter the Communion line to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. We go forward to receive the Eucharist from the priest or the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

When the Host is presented:
PRIEST OR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER: The Body of Christ.
COMMUNICANT: Amen.

When the Chalice is presented:
PRIEST OR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER: The Blood of Christ.
COMMUNICANT: Amen.

If you cannot receive Communion, you can make:
An Act of Spiritual Communion
My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.
**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We recognize that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. We pray that God would have mercy on us as we prepare our hearts to receive Him in Holy Communion.

**ALL:** Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

**PRIEST:** Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
**ALL:** Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

We pray that the Lord would strengthen us through the Holy Eucharist and make us worthy to be living tabernacles of His Body and Blood.

Write a prayer here, asking God to strengthen you through Holy Communion and to live a life full of love:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

**PRIEST OR DEACON:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____ (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).
**ALL:** Glory to You, O Lord.

As we say this, we make a little cross on our foreheads, lips, and over our hearts that we may be open to understand, speak, and love God’s Word.

We listen to the priest or deacon read the Gospel. At the end:

**PRIEST OR DEACON:** The Gospel of the Lord.
**ALL:** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.
Lord, You taught me this from the Bible:
(Write what you learned in your own words.)

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THE HOMILY
Now we are seated and listen quietly during the homily. God speaks to us through the priest or deacon. He teaches about the Bible readings and how we can live out this teaching in our own lives.

STAND

THE NICENE CREED
After the homily, we stand and profess our faith by praying the Nicene Creed.

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, Bow while saying and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He

SIGN OF PEACE

PRIEST: Lord Jesus Christ, Who said to Your apostles: Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the Faith of Your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with Your will. Who live and reign forever and ever.
ALL: Amen.
PRIEST: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
ALL: And with your spirit.
PRIEST: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

We now offer those near us a sign of God's peace and love, usually a handshake.
COMMUNION RITE

As one body in Christ, we stand to recite the prayer that Jesus taught us.

PRIEST: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.
ALL: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of Your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
ALL: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever.

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.
GENERAL INTERCESSIONS
After the priest gives the introduction, the deacon or lector leads us in prayer for our needs, the needs of the Church, and the needs of our world. After each intercession, we say:
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer. (or another response as directed by the deacon or lector)
The priest then prays a concluding prayer.
PRIEST: ... we ask this through Christ our Lord.
ALL: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS
We now prepare the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. People bring the gifts up to the altar as we sing a song. We prepare our hearts to offer ourselves to Almighty God.

PRIEST: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your goodness we have received the bread we offer You: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.
ALL: Blessed be God forever.

PRIEST: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your goodness we have received the wine we offer You: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.
ALL: Blessed be God forever.

The priest washes his hands and prays quietly: Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

THE GREAT AMEN

After the priest prays for the needs of all the Church in the second half of the Eucharistic Prayer, he raises the Host and the Chalice and concludes:

PRIEST: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever.
ALL: Amen.

With Jesus, we now give praise and honor to God the Father in the Great Amen.
Lord, I remember those who need my prayers, especially the following:

Make a list of those people you want to remember in your prayers at Mass:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

PRIEST: Pray, Brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

ALL: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of His name, for our good, and the good of all His holy Church.

The Priest prays over the gifts.

PRIEST: ... we ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

ALL: Amen.
Eucharistic Prayer

PRIEST: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And with your spirit.
PRIEST: Lift up your hearts.
ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.
PRIEST: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL: It is right and just.

THE PREFACE

The priest prays a prayer and invites us to join with all the angels and saints in giving praise to God.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY


KNEEL

The priest now prays the Eucharistic Prayer. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine are changed into the Real Presence of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. During this holy part of the Mass, we thank and praise God for all He has done for us, and offer our lives again for His glory. In our hearts we exclaim, “My Lord and My God!” as the priest elevates (raises) the Host and the chalice of Jesus’ Precious Blood.

Mystery of Faith

PRIEST: The mystery of faith.
ALL: We proclaim Your death, O Lord, and profess Your Resurrection until You come again.

-or-
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim Your death, O Lord, until You come again.

-or-
Save us, Savior of the world, for by Your Cross and Resurrection You have set us free.