

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

From time to time, it is necessary to be reminded about some habits of good church going. These good habits will help make your worship at Mass more meaningful, help others around you, and help us manage the crowds as our parish continues to grow. Therefore, please remember these points as you prepare for Mass.

1. Plan to arrive fifteen minutes before Mass starts. This gives you a chance to find your place, read the readings, and join in the prayers before Mass.
2. Sit toward the front of the nave and the transepts if you can. This leaves the back of the church for latecomers and families with young children.
3. If you have young children, please bring some quiet books or toys to help if their attention wanders. If necessary, be prepared to take them out to the Narthex where you can still see and hear the actions of the Mass. The cry room is available too.
4. If you have trouble hearing there are three things you can do: sit in the transepts or closer to the front, if you have a hearing aid switch it to the loop system or use one of the hearing aids available in the narthex. Ask the ushers and they will show you how to use it.
5. Remember, especially in the summer months, to dress reverently. The church is air conditioned so there is no need to come to Mass in beach wear! Best suggestion is for thighs and shoulders to be covered (both males and females).
6. Don't forget to make a sign of reverence before receiving communion. You should genuflect or make a profound bow if you are not kneeling.
7. If you are aware of mortal sin in your life you should receive a blessing and not communion. A mortal sin is a serious sin that you have done intentionally, knowing that it was a serious sin. If you are aware of mortal sin, you should make an act of contrition immediately and go to confession as soon as you can.
8. Please remain silent before Mass. The old saying is, "Before Mass talk to God. After Mass talk to your neighbor."
9. Be considerate of those around you. Latecomers are seated from the outside aisles. If there is room in the pew, please move toward the center aisle.
10. Don't forget the eucharistic fast. We are obliged to refrain from eating for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. This also means do not come to church chewing gum!
11. Please turn off your cell phones. Tune in to God instead!

Thanks for your attention to these matters, and thanks for worshipping the Lord with us at OLR.

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker