

Some Reminders About Church Etiquette

“Let all things be done decently
and in order” 1 Corinthians 14:40

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The following suggestions are not made in order to burden us with rules, but to provide that things in the Church are done decently and in good order. This will be an aide for the sake of worship and to avoid distractions.

1. The Inner Narthex (under the balcony) is a place for our worship to become more concentrated. Candles may be lit there and icons venerated.

This space should be reserved for:

- A. mothers with infants,
- B. catechumens who may want to stand there,
- C. and those who are waiting for an appropriate time to enter the nave (the main place of assembly).

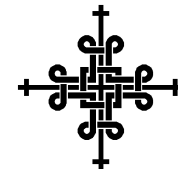
Please do not stand in the Inner Narthex if one of the above mentioned categories does not apply to you!

2. In many cultures it is the custom for guests to bring a simple gift to their hosts. When children come home they will bring a gift to “mom”, a flower, a candy, something to show their love and respect. It is so in the Church that the faithful offer a candle to the Lord, the Theotokos and the Saints.

2. It is not appropriate to enter or leave the nave or to sit when the Gospel is being read.

3. It is not appropriate to lounge in the nave or to sit with arms folded or legs crossed. These are postures that subjects do not assume in the presence of a king.
4. If young children are making continuous noise please take them to the cry room (when such a room is completed) or outside or downstairs. The outer narthex amplifies the noise back into the nave.
5. Children should stand with their parents. If older children are not with parents, the parents must know where they are. Roaming outside or downstairs is not appropriate.
6. Young children should be accompanied in the nave and not wander about unattended.
7. It is never appropriate to go in and out of the nave without need. One should take care of bathroom needs before entering the nave.
*Of course one must not get a drink of water before Holy Communion or receiving the Antidoron (holy bread).
*After "The doors, the doors" it is even more inappropriate to leave the nave.
8. The rear of the nave is always going to have more activity than the rest of the room, especially because we have so many young children (for which we thank God!) It is suggested that those who are distracted by such activity move further into the nave and "draw near" as the scripture urges us.
9. During the "Kiss of Peace" simply greet those

- immediately around you, men with men and women with women. Simply saying, "Christ is in our midst! And responding, "He is and shall be!" This a most solemn declaration of our unity. It is not a time for chatter. Be very sensitive towards visitors who may just need a verbal greeting and/or handshake.
10. Godparents who wish to be with their godchildren at communion can quietly meet them in the communion line. We can avoid the "communion shuffle".
 11. There need not be long communion lines stretching into the Narthex. At the time of Holy Communion just stay where you are and move to the center of the nave and forward to the Chalice(s)
 12. At the time of holy communion, when the All-holy Body and Blood of Christ have come into our midst to be served it is not appropriate to sit without great need.
 13. Our attire should be fit for honoring the King of all. We should "dress up" for those occasions of great significance in our life. The Eucharist is the most significant of all! What we wear informs us of whom we are meeting and what we are doing.
 14. Concerning "Blessed Bread" and Antidoron: There are pious reasons why at times one would not receive either the "Blessed Bread" or Antidoron at the Divine Liturgy. It is inappropriate to take bread to someone who has not asked for it.



At the Agape Meal (coffee hour)

1. When we eat together let us continue to observe our good order in being served:

A.*Clergy,

B.*seniors and guests,

C.*adults (post high school)and those with children,

D.*then, unattended older children.

2. Parents, observe closely how much food your children are taking and also what happens to it. It often happens that whole and partial plates of food are found both outside and inside the hall. The food has been blessed. It should not be treated with carelessness or disrespect.



When the Bishop visits

It is always a great honor to have the Bishop visit our parish. The Bishop is the successor and living icon of the holy Apostles and brings their blessing to us. He reveals the presence of Christ in the midst of His Church. So... of course we treat him with great respect.

*We should be early for the services over which the bishop will preside. To be late or absent without need is a sign of negligence and disrespect to the Lord..

*We should ask his blessing whenever possible, by saying, "Master bless" and kissing his right hand..

*We should not leave a service or an event before the bishop has departed without the greatest necessity. If one must, and it is possible, ask the bishop's blessing before you leave.

*We should always make sure that the bishop is served before we begin eating whether at home or the Church or anywhere that we are with him.

*We should always be aware of the bishop's presence and stand respectfully when he enters a room. (This should be done for clergy in general as well as elder members of our parish and your parents and grandparents)

Casual is the attitude of our secular culture, but we must never be casual toward Christ and His Holy Church. He whom God has honored we must honor as well. When the bishop comes we have a great opportunity to show God our love, devotion and obedience for Him through our careful honoring of His apostle amongst us.

Is pola eti desopta! Many years to thee master!

