

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Politeness In The Pews

Sunday is a special day; it belongs to God. And He commands us to come together as members of society to pay Him public worship in its highest form -- by assisting at the Sacrifice of the Mass.

On this day, and at this public worship, you honor God not only by your presence -- but also by your appearance. Hence, if you have a good suit -- your Sunday best -- wear it to Sacred Heart Church for Mass. There's a time and place for a T-shirt; and a time and place for a tux. Sunday Mass is the time and place for your Sunday best. By it, you honor God, and lend dignity to yourself and to the atmosphere in which you move. If you have no Sunday suit, come as you are -- God understands that, too.

The lines for confessions at the Sunday Masses are endless. Only a few confessions can be heard. Hence, why not leave that limited time to those who have few if any other opportunities to go -- especially the Off-Campus men! There are confessors in all the hall chapels every morning and evening throughout the week. There are facilities for late confessions in Dillon, Howard, Sorin, and Cavanaugh -- morning and evening. It would be a gracious gesture on your part to show this consideration in favor of those who can get to confession at no other time. No one, of course, should ever enter the confessional during the Consecration of the Mass.

The early Masses on Sunday -- 7, 8, 9 -- are for the Freshmen. The later Masses at 10:15 and 11:15 -- are for the Upperclassmen. This arrangement helps to solve the problem of distributing the huge number of students, plus guests, in a manner that makes for proper assistance at Mass. Overcrowding makes for distractions, as you well know. Late-comers wandering about, looking for a space in the pews, remind us of vendors, and hawkers, and disturb the congregation.

Should you come late for Mass -- and it should never happen here -- do not parade through the church, but take your place quietly in the rear. Your lateness is already out of line; do not add to the crime by disturbing the congregation bent on following the Mass. This caution would not be necessary, had you left the hall when the bell rang. Let's have no stragglers on Sunday morning -- we're obligated to the entire Mass. And all Masses start promptly here on campus.

People who insist on parading up and down before others are termed exhibitionists. That's especially true in church, whether they have an eye on the front pew, or on going to confession, or on one of the choir seats. Hence, once the Mass has begun, no one is to move about at all. Stay where you are, near the confessional, or in the sanctuary, or wherever you happened to light. Ushers will invite you to observe these little matters that show regard for others. Please cooperate with them.

The Catholic newspapers in the vestibules at the church are intended for your consumption. You'll be amazed at the amount of information contained in the Denver Register, and the splendid articles in Our Sunday Visitor (sports included) and in the Ave Maria. They'll keep you informed -- maybe even save you some embarrassment on current matters when the same subjects are brought up in class for discussion.

Missals and Prayerbooks, placed in the church, and in all the hall chapels, are not for your consumption -- merely for your use. They're not souvenirs. They're intended for those who forget to bring a missal or prayerbook to Mass.

The Rubrics at High Mass -- Stand whenever the priest sings.

Tonight at 6:45 in Sacred Heart Church -- Novena to the Sorrowful Mother.