

Tonight: at 6:45, the  
Sorrowful Mother Novena.  
Don't miss it.

Religious Bulletin  
November 4, 1955

Sunday: The 9 o'clock Mass  
for Phil Vessart -- at request  
of the Senior Class.

Your Church Etiquette

Do you know when to genuflect on both knees? The common genuflection is performed by bending one knee -- the right one -- so that it touches the floor, on entering or leaving a chapel.

But we genuflect on both knees when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar-- as on Sunday evenings during Adoration; or during Benediction; or when Holy Communion is being distributed; or when the tabernacle door is open.

Why genuflect? It's an external act of homage and respect for Christ really present before us. And it is fitting that greater reverence be shown to Our Lord when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, or is carried about by the priest.

You're all athletes; hence, bend the knees in the direction of the Blessed Sacrament, not toward the pew. And if you are not muscle-bound, or tied in knots of rheumatism, don't grab the pew. Indeed, it offers a splendid occasion to complement the external reverence with an interior act of faith. A genuflection should be prayerful.

Why take Holy Water? The water is there for a purpose -- at the entrance of every church or chapel. It's to be taken and applied to yourself in the form of a cross to recall your baptism by water-- that baptism which made you a somebody, a follower of Christ, a person destined for heaven.

Water is also a cleansing solution. The Catholic takes water at the door of the chapel or church, asking God to wash away all worldly, unnecessary, and distracting thoughts during this period of worship. It is also a gentle reminder that you are entering a holy place.

Holy Water is a sacramental. It has been blessed by the priest who invokes the blessing of God on all who use it reverently. The rubrics do not call for its use when you leave the church, even though you may gain an indulgence for reverently making the sign of the cross every time you make use of the blessed water.

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Why wait reverently -- until the priest has left the sanctuary after Mass? Because that is a courtesy due to him. At any important social gathering, no one would think of leaving before the honored guest has departed. To do so would be extremely rude. The same good manners should prevail in the House of God.

To arrive late, or to leave early is to fall short of fulfilling our Sunday obligation of hearing an entire Mass. Those who leave during the distribution of Communion have definitely omitted the Communion prayer of the Mass -- because this part of the Mass is not real until after the priest has covered the chalice. Beware of those people who know exactly how late they may arrive at Mass, and exactly how early they may leave, without committing a mortal sin! Our obligation remains -- as it has always been long before you delved into Theology -- to hear an entire Mass.

This Is What Our Lady Said To Lucy At Fatima:

"My child, behold my heart surrounded with the thorns which ungrateful men place therein at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, try to console me; and tell them that I promise to help at the hour of death, with the grace needed for salvation, whoever on the first Saturday of five successive months shall receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

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Tomorrow is the First Saturday of the Month.  
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