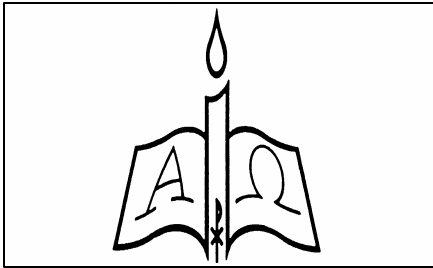




LITURGY LESSON

Preparing for Liturgy - lesson 1

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.” Matthew (18:20)



We come together here at Church each week. We do so out of a sense of gratitude for all that God has given us. And out of a sense of wonder and awe at the greatness of God. Therefore, when we prepare to worship God we want to do so carefully and with the knowledge that God will indeed be in our midst.

Our weekly worship holds a place of honor in our lives. It demands our whole-hearted attention and participation. But, we live in a world full of distractions and temptations, so it is important that we prepare to worship thoughtfully and prayerfully. Our worship does not **begin** when we enter the Church. Rather, our preparation for worship begins at home with a sense of reverence.

Some steps we can take to put our hearts in the right place for worship include:

Read the scripture readings at home and think about what they mean and how they ask us to live. The homily at Mass is almost always taken from one or all of the readings. It only makes sense to read them before we get here and to ask how we let them guide our lives.

Get ready for church in a reverent manner. Maybe leave the radio or TV turned off. Choose your clothes with an attitude of respect and modesty. Try to foster an aura of peacefulness and quiet in your preparation to leave the house. Prepare your offering envelope prayerfully **before** you leave the house.

Make a special effort to arrive a few minutes early to prepare and to re-read the scriptures of the day.

Smile. Just because our worship time is **solemn** doesn't mean it has to be **sour**. Remember, Jesus is here in our midst. Rejoice. Thank Him for all the blessings He has given us and contemplate how happy we will be when we are in His presence.

These are only suggestions, and maybe you can think of others that are right for you. But the idea is that in order to worship effectively we must prepare ourselves effectively.

