

## Preparing to Celebrate Liturgy

Liturgy is a *supra*-human activity: a meeting of human and Divine. As such it can never be *business as usual*. We need to prepare ourselves by adjusting our attitude to celebrate liturgy by:

- Slowing down, putting aside our cares and placing ourselves in the presence of the Lord.
- Opening ourselves to an encounter with God. Effort is involved in being present to another, particularly if the other in question is God. We need to listen actively, and not just hear. We need to sit, stand, kneel with consideration and understanding, not just act out of reflex.
- If possible, coming to Mass with knowledge of the readings of the day. We can read them in the misselette before Mass rather than reading the parish bulletin. Additionally Sunday Readings along with related reflections are posted on our website [www.saintanthonyparish.org](http://www.saintanthonyparish.org).

## As We Celebrate

- Pray with inner conviction. We should mean what we say when we pray, entering into a dialogue with the Lord.
- Pray and sing with the community. This communal prayer is manifestation of our essential nature as the Body of Christ. What St. Augustine said is true: "The one who sings, prays twice."

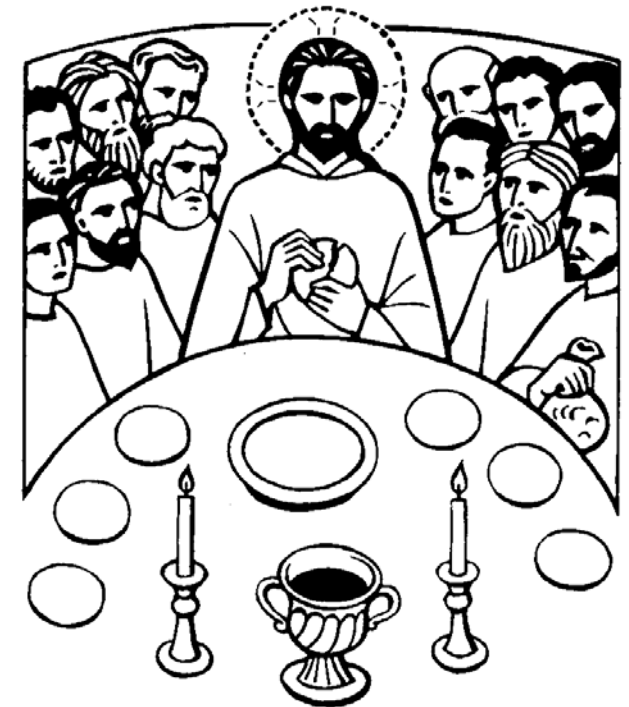
- Make a sacrificial gift to St. Anthony Parish. We can only meet our ministry responsibilities if each of us contributes financially.
- Show reverence before the reception of communion with a bow or other reverential act.
- The Catholic Tradition is that we "receive" communion on the tongue or in the hand. Receive communion with hand supporting hand, making a throne for Our Eucharistic Lord. It is not appropriate to reach out and take the host.
- Realize that the Lord has been consumed by you and is present in you in a new and intense way. Pray quietly as you enter into this profound reality.



Thanks to all of you who make  
St. Anthony Parish a wonderful place to  
worship the Lord.

We are drawn  
together on the  
Lord's Day, forged in  
a communion of love...

-Parish Mission Statement-



St. Anthony of Padua Parish

**Welcome** to St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

We are most thankful for your presence and your sharing in Worship with us this day. It is good for us to be here, to be fed by Christ's Body and Blood and nourished by His Word.

**We offer the following as an aid and guide to participation in our Eucharistic Celebration.**

### **We gather in Community**

There are many forms of prayer, both private and communal. Jesus asks that we join as a community for this particular prayer. Our parish community contains all manner of people: young, old, singles, families. Everyone has a place at Mass. We realize we share this sacred space together as we seek a way to participate and pray in the midst of the distractions that are necessarily part of all prayer--personal and communal.

As in any community, commitment of mind and heart to certain protocols and attitudes are necessary and appropriate to assure the good order of that community. How we do what we do matters as much as what we do.

### **A Sense of Holy Ground and Sacred Space**

Our church is not just an ordinary building; it is dedicated to the Lord, set aside as sacred space. We are ordinary people; but we are also a people set apart and dedicated to the Lord. We need to show respect for Our Lord in this sacred space as well as respect for each other as consecrated people. Some simple ways we achieve this are:

- *Arriving on time.* We encourage you to arrive early, greet your fellow parishoners, enter into an attitude of quiet and prayer.
- *Staying for the entire Mass.* Our liturgy ends when the the closing song has been completed and the Celebrant has left the body of the church. It is all about recognizing the Lord's hospitality.
- *Dressing appropriately.* While our clothes do not make us who we are, they are reflective of our understanding and attitudes concerning where we are and what we are about. Mass is about worship of the Lord. The Psalmist says: "Adore the Lord in holy attire."
- *Maintaining a respectful silence.* Socializing, and ringing cell phones are not appropriate and are disruptive to the sense of the sacred for those worshipping and the celebrant. There are areas of our building designed to be social spaces.

- *Avoid disrupting Mass.* Activity such as trips to the restroom, even for children, disrupt the Mass. We have wonderful facilities for these needs (including the most spectacular restrooms in all of Ambler). Please try to use them before or after Mass or in a genuine emergency. Especially avoid moving during the consecration of the Mass.

### **Children are an integral part of our community and essential for the future of the faith.**

- Children's rightful place is in the body of the church (the nave) where they can see and hear. Sometimes however, for their own comfort as well as that of the whole community, it may be necessary to take advantage of our Holy Child (Crying) Room. This room was designed with children and families in mind and includes a rest room with baby changing facilities. The Cloister Walk and Narthex are also available.
- Even the Holy Child Room is sacred space. Children can still be taught about respect for our church community from within the confines of the cry room.
- Children can participate in our liturgy in age appropriate ways. We offer two options at the 9:15am Mass:
  - **Little People's Sunday Worship** for children aged 3 through kindergarten and
  - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** which is a worship experience developed for children K through grade 5.