

Dear Friends:

I just want to take this opportunity to remind everyone about some mass and church “etiquette” items. I don’t like to do this, but I have gotten several letters of complaint lately and feel it is time to address it with the community.

The first item is in regards to the amount of noise in church before Mass. Many people come into the church early to pray, read and prepare themselves spiritually for the Mass. It is very distracting when others around them are talking in loud voices, across the aisles, sharing recipes or frustrations with the local baseball teams. I don’t want to diminish the spirit of family and community that we have at St. Isidore, but please consider simply greeting your friends as you come into church. If you have something you have to share with them do so in a quiet voice and quickly. Take some time after Mass to visit more at length in our ample narthex.

Secondly, as I’ve mentioned many times before, please arrive on time for Mass and remain until the recessional song is finished. On a rare occasion do our Masses go over an hour – can’t you give one hour to the Lord? After all, he gave His LIFE for us. Along those same lines, try to encourage your children to remain in church during Mass and not leaving – especially during the Eucharistic Prayer – to get a drink of water or use the restroom. Ask them to take care of those things when you arrive.

Thirdly, our church seats almost 1,100 people. Rarely is it completely full for Sunday Masses. Many people though choose to stand in the narthex and “watch” Mass or some even have little “picnics” in the south end of the narthex where the church is not even visible. Please ask one of our many ushers to help you find a place in the church. If the church is full, then stand in a place where you can see and participate in the Mass – even if it is in the narthex.

Fourthly, food in the church. I know bottles or sippy cups are a good way to keep a child quiet and those are fine. I also know many people need to have a bottle of water with them because of illness or medication – that is also fine. I’d ask though that you refrain from juice boxes, soda and coffee in the church. I’d also ask that you not bring cookies, crackers, etc. into church for your children. The mess created by these is unbelievable. Gum is

another disaster being created in our church. The growing amount of gum being found in the hymnals, in the hymnal racks and under the seats is incredible. There are trash bins outside every door – please use those to dispose of your gum as you enter church.

Finally, all of this can be summed up very simply as having respect for the House of God! Because of our space limitations, our church building is used for many non-liturgical functions. It doesn’t matter though if we are celebrating Mass or attending a Sacramental parent meeting – when we are in that building it is still the House of God. Please respect it as such by your actions and attitude. The primary purpose of the church is to help people grow closer to God and be in his presence. Let us all do our part to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to do so!

On a more pleasant note...I want to again thank everyone for your prayers for my father. Last week he had an endoscopy of his throat and several biopsies. He received great news – there is no sign of any tumors or cancer. He will continue to be monitored, but for now is doing great. Thank you for your prayers. Our friend Stan Cubala received good news last week also...his treatments are working at shrinking his tumors and lesions – so he is making progress as well. Please continue to keep him, Maureen and so many others in our parish struggling with cancer in your prayers.

God bless and have a great week!