

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF MONROE COUNTY OHIO

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield St. John the Baptist, Miltonsburg St. John Bosco Mission, Sardis
St. Sylvester Central Catholic Elementary School
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In the house of God, in the church, which the Divine Master likes to call "house of prayer," I exhort you in the Lord to practice the following:

Enter the church in silence and with great respect, considering and holding yourself as unworthy to come before the majesty of the Lord. Among the other devout considerations, think that our soul is the temple of God, and what as such we have to preserve it pure and clean in front of God and His angels.

Take then the holy water and make well and slowly the sign of our redemption: the sign of the Cross.

As soon as you see God in the Blessed Sacrament (there is an altar where the Eucharist is preserved: it is marked by a burning lamp), devoutly genuflect, bending your knee to the ground; first greet Him, your Lord-living and real in the tabernacle then the Blessed Mother and the saints.

After you find your place, kneel down and render to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament the offer of your prayer and your adoration. Disclose to Him all the needs of yourself and others, talk to Him with filial abandonment, freely unburden your heart and give Him complete sovereignty to operate in you as He pleases.

When attending Holy Mass and the sacred liturgies, use much propriety in standing up, kneeling, in sitting down, and make any religious action with greatest devotion. Be modest in your gazes; do not turn your head here and there to see who comes in and who goes out; do not laugh, in reverence to the holy place and also in regard to your neighbors; refrain from exchanging any word with anyone, unless demanded by charity or by a true necessity.

If you pray with others, pronounce distinctly the words of the prayer, make the pauses properly, do not use a high tone of voice, never rush, and follow the pace of the priest who leads and of the others. In summary, behave in such a way that all the bystanders may be edified and may be led by you to glorify and love the heavenly Father.

As you go out of the church keep an absorbed and calm behavior: first take leave from Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, ask Him forgiveness for the faults committed in His divine presence, and never depart from Him before asking and obtaining from Him the fatherly Blessing.

After exiting the church, behave as any follower of the Nazarene should.

Padre Pio