

Active Participation in Mass: An Act of Stewardship

1. The Entrance Rites

Think of all the wonderful but “ordinary” things that occur during our preparation and procession into Mass—even before we experience Jesus in the Eucharist!

- We are asked to “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”, and we accept the invitation because celebrating the Eucharist has been **entrusted to our care**.
- We **prepare our hearts and minds** for a special encounter with the Lord as we leave home and travel to Mass.
- We enter the door as individuals but will be nourished as **members of a community**—the St. William’s community and the entire body of the faithful.
- We are presented with the physical surroundings inside the church entrance—the sound of music, the sight of friends, the feeling of a hymnal in our hands—**ordinary elements** that take on new significance in this sacred house of God.
- We genuflect or bow, enter a pew, kneel, and make the **Sign of the Cross**, an ancient sign of blessing and a reminder of the suffering of Jesus on the cross.
- We communicate with God through **prayer**, perhaps reflecting on our lives over the past week and how the Lord was present at every moment.
- We wait in **anticipation** for the opportunity to be actively involved in another Mass—one of many we have experienced in the past and one of many more we hope to experience in the future.

How will your preparation and procession be different next week compared to other weeks?