

## As We Gather for Mass Part 3

We now come to Part 3 in a series of discussing church etiquette. Part of our responsibility in church is to spend time with God outside of Sunday Mass.



In particular, for us to find time as individuals and as families to read, reflect and discuss the Sunday readings before we arrive for Mass. If we have done this, when we hear them proclaimed our minds will be able to grasp them more clearly and our hearts will be stirred by the familiar word of God already working within us. This is especially important for young children.

The Responsorial Psalm is a part of the Liturgy of the Word. It is most properly sung because the Psalms were originally set to music, therefore the Church continues that ancient tradition. The Nicene or Apostles Creed is often simply routinely recited. However, it is a wonderful and powerful statement. This is our faith. This is a summary of what we as Catholics believe. If you have never sat and meditated with either of the Creeds, I heartily encourage you to do so. The Prayers of the Faithful or General Intercessions are also a part of the Liturgy of the Word. These are not “my” personal prayers, they are “our” prayers. These are the prayers of the Church, which is all of us, the People of God. Therefore, we do not just pray for “my” relative who is sick, but “all” who are sick; not just “my” friend who has lost a job, but “all” who are searching for employment.

St. Luke the Evangelist, pray for us  
*Fr. James*

*Prayer is a special gift from God.  
Anyone can do it!  
And when we see those around us praying,  
It is something we do naturally.  
It becomes something we want to be a part of.  
Make prayer part of your everyday life.*

