

Reverence and Sacred Silence Before Holy Mass

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to offer a simple reminder about the importance of **prayer, reverence, and sacred silence** before and during the celebration of Holy Mass.

When we enter the church, we enter a sacred space where Christ is truly present, especially in the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle. Our words, actions, and attitudes should reflect our faith in the Real Presence of Our Lord and our respect for those who have come to pray and prepare their hearts for the Eucharist.

Our parish is blessed to be a welcoming community where friendships are formed and where we rejoice in seeing one another. This fellowship is a beautiful gift. Nevertheless, there is a proper time and place for conversation. **Before Mass, the church should primarily be a place of prayer, recollection, and preparation for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.**

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 45, reminds us that sacred silence is part of the celebration of the Mass and should be observed at the proper times. Sacred silence is not simply the absence of noise; it creates space for us to listen, pray, and become aware of God's presence.

Therefore, I kindly ask everyone to maintain a spirit of **sacred silence in the church before Mass and during the Sacred Liturgy**. If you wish to greet friends, visit one another, or continue conversations, please do so in the narthex, gathering areas, or outside the church.

This request is not criticism of anyone. Rather, it is an invitation for all of us to grow deeper in our love for the Eucharist and in our awareness that we are standing in the presence of the Lord. The reverence we show in church is a witness to our faith and a gift of charity to one another.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. May we continue to be a parish **nourished by the Eucharist, united in Christ, and strengthened in our mission to bring Christ's love to the world.**

May God bless you and your families.

In Christ,

Fr. Vilaire Philius
Pastor