

## Proper Order in the House of God

*The pious and devout Christian observes the following whenever entering the church (especially for the worship services):*

**M**aintains an attitude of reverence and prayerfulness.

**L**ights a candle and venerates the icons when entering the narthex.

**A**rrives at the church in time to be present for the beginning of the services, recognizing that it is careless and disrespectful to arrive late.

**T**akes a place in the nave of the church without distracting others; never lingers in the narthex unnecessarily.

**R**efrains from unnecessary talking and whispering.

**R**ecognizes that everyone is welcome in the House of God, from infants to grandparents.

**O**ut of respect for others and so as not to disturb or cause distractions, does all they can to keep their own small children comfortable and quiet. When necessary, takes children out to the narthex or hall until they are tranquil.

**P**articipates fully and joyfully in the worship of the Church by making the sign of the Cross at the appropriate times, singing the hymns with the others in the congregation, reciting the Creed and the Lord's Prayer clearly, and by listening attentively.

**K**nows that sitting in a casual manner or crossing legs is disrespectful and inappropriate, as is also chewing gum.

**C**omes forward quietly and with reverence to receive Holy Communion and antidoron.

**K**nows that lipstick and other lip balms smear icons and especially the Communion spoon; therefore removes lipstick before venerating icons and always before receiving Holy Communion.

**T**hese guidelines are not meant to offend anyone; rather they are intended to help establish and maintain proper order in the church which is in the best interest of all, which befits proper worship, and which is pleasing and reverent toward God.