

Posture... after the Lamb of God

This weekend I am going to share with you the letter from the Office of the Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Portland in regards to our posture and movement after the Lamb of God.

The Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, under the leadership of Archbishop Sample, is closely working with each parish in the Archdiocese in order to promote the beauty of the Sacred Liturgy. In this regard, our community here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help will cooperate in this endeavor of the archdiocese by implementing the GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal) with devotion in every Liturgy that we celebrate. We would like to encourage each one in our community, as we try to cooperate with the archdiocese, to bear with us and cooperate with us, in making the Liturgy beautiful and implementing its proper celebration.

“Beginning on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) this year, Archbishop Sample has determined that during the celebration of Holy Mass, after the Lamb of God, the faithful will kneel.

The current General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states under the section regarding Movement and Postures that: “The faithful kneel after the Agnus Dei unless the diocesan Bishop determines otherwise.” [43] Previously, the Archdiocese had instructed that the faithful remain standing after the Lamb of God. [The General Instruction on the Roman Missal, 2000 Revisions and Adaptations for the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon.]

Archbishop Sample has determined that a more reverent celebration of the Eucharist will be aided by a change in this posture. Kneeling is a posture of adoration and has been part of the Communion Rite for many centuries. By kneeling after the Lamb of God, the faithful prepare for the movement in which the priest presents to them the Sacrificed Lamb [Ecce Agnus Dei - Behold the Lamb of God]. This posture of adoration is most appropriate before the reception of Holy Communion.

After the Lamb of God, the faithful should remain kneeling until they move from their place to receive Holy Communion. The tradition of remaining kneeling after the reception of Holy Communion until the priest has returned to his seat is to be commended.

Those who cannot kneel due to infirmity or other impediment should be seated so as to not impede the view of those who kneel.

This change will unite us with the Universal Church, the majority of the Diocese in the United States and indeed the other diocese in the State of Oregon. More importantly Archbishop Sample believes it will enhance the reverent participation of the faithful at Holy Mass and increase their devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

This change will take effect beginning at all Masses of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, 3 June 2018.”