

## AWARENESS AT MASS

**A** When we attend Mass with a positive **Attitude**, we each find a spirit of renewal and consolation. A positive attitude goes hand-in-hand with a spiritual “humility” that says to God: We are ready to listen, hear and participate.

**W** When we are Willing participants, we benefit more than if we attend because it is expected. Our willingness opens us to God’s grace, by being in God’s presence and participating in a variety of ministerial ways.

**A** When we are **Aware**, we are considerate of others. We attend Mass to hear the readings, the homily, and to participate in the liturgy by singing and responding when appropriate. Once Mass begins, personal conversations should not take place. If a high tech device is essential, it should be set on a mode that alerts only the owner and not those nearby.

**R** **Responsibility** rests with each of us to ensure that we do our part to make the services special. Thankfully, the days when each parent attended a different Mass so the other could watch the children are long gone. We are a stronger church when the whole family attends Mass. All of us, including single adults, senior couples, and families, reflect the true church. We all share, however, the responsibility to use good manners during the services.

**E** As we **Educate** our friends, family, parents and children, we have a better appreciation and stronger knowledge of when to sit, stand, pray and remain silent. Why not stay until the final blessing? Why not join in the closing hymn?

**N** It is our responsibility to **Never** judge others. We are a community of God that helps each other, not one that passes judgement. Mass attendance is between God and each individual.

**E** **Enthusiasm** is contagious. When we bring enthusiasm to the liturgy, we will leave with abundance. Congregants can set a tone of enthusiasm, for instance, by selecting appropriate attire. One’s attire doesn’t have to be fancy, but it should reflect the “specialness” of the occasion.

**S** We are all called to be **Saints**. The main characteristic of a saint is unselfishness. We should all strive to be unselfish at Mass, but, more importantly, choose to live our lives in an unselfish manner.

**S** **Stewardship** means supporting the Church. Based on the teachings of Jesus that tell us that God is the creator, owner, and giver of all things, stewardship is the manner in which we return our blessings back to God through the use of our time, talents and treasures, all of which are critical to the operations and financial well-being of the Parish.