

Worship at
All Saints Episcopal Church
Parma, Ohio

Most of what happens in our worship is printed in the bulletin the ushers have given you. The hymns can be found in the blue hymnal. Occasionally we refer to the Book of Common Prayer, the red book in the rack in front of you. That's where the text in the bulletin comes from.

The service music (Kyrie, Gloria, Sursum Corda, Sanctus, and Fraction Anthem) can be found on a card in the hymnal rack. Feel free to ask someone sitting near you if you need further help.

May I receive Communion?

Yes. Everyone is welcome to come to God's Table and receive Eucharist, or Holy Communion. If you receive but are not baptized, and if you want to continue to receive, please speak to the Rector about preparing for baptism. Communion is the continuation of the grace we receive in baptism and derives its meaning from that commitment Christians make to follow Jesus.

We do not need to achieve perfection before coming to God's Table. If we did, no one would come. We come bringing our shortcomings and, no matter what our background, hoping to be made whole by God's love for us.

What do I do when I get to the altar rail?

We receive communion by coming forward to the rail and either standing or kneeling. We hold out our hands, palms up, to receive the bread. When the bread is served either eat it or wait for the chalice and dip the bread into the wine – carefully, without getting your fingers in the cup. At our 10:30 a.m. Eucharist we usually have two different chalices: one for drinking and one for dipping. If you do not wish to receive bread or wine, cross your arms over your chest and you will be given a blessing. After receiving communion return to your seat. If you have trouble coming to the altar rail notify an usher and the priest will be pleased to bring the sacrament to you where you are seated.

When do children receive Communion?

Children of any age who have been baptized may receive the bread and wine under their parents' guidance. We hope children will never be able to remember a time when they were not served at the table with the rest of the family.

How do I know when to kneel or stand?

Generally speaking, we stand to sing and to hear the Gospel reading, we stand or kneel for prayer, and we sit to listen to the reading of Holy Scripture and the sermon. If standing or kneeling is difficult for you, do what is most comfortable. It is possible to bend the knee of your heart while sitting in the pew.

Do my children attend the entire service with me?

They may, of course, if you wish. However, there is a nursery for little ones from 10 a.m. to noon. Good Shepherd School, for children ages 3 through 10, begins at 9:45 a.m. in the atriums, or classrooms, up the stairs from the gathering space at the back of the church. You are welcome to take your children up to have a look at any point.

There are classes for older children between worship services, but we hope they will join the adults for worship. Many participate as acolytes or ushers. As we prepare for the Eucharist, the children come into the church in procession and join their families for the Holy Meal. On the Sundays in Lent, the Good Shepherd classes have their own Eucharist at the altar following the organ postlude.

Bags of soft toys, children's bulletins and crayons, and a rocking chair and basket of books are available at the back of the church for anyone who would like to use them.

How can I get more information about All Saints?

Please fill out a Welcome Card, which you will find in the pew rack, and hand it to an usher or greeter, or sign our guest book and leave us your name, address, and telephone number. Someone will contact you. Also, feel free to call the parish office any weekday morning.