

**To begin on the first Sunday of Advent: A few enhancements to our liturgy**

**Period of Silence before liturgy**

**Procession and Presentation of the Gifts - Offertory Procession of Bread and Wine - Sharing of Peace  
Recessional**

The goals of these changes are:

To focus and center us before liturgy begins

To move from the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist in a more prayerful experience.

To provide a meaningful way of presenting our gifts of food and money.

To create a solemn atmosphere that worthily presents and elevates the offering of bread and wine.

To form a more meaningful bond of sharing the sign of peace between the members.

To close the liturgy in a more solemn way

Period of silence before liturgy

After people have had time to visit and gather, the presider and cross bearer will move to the back of the church.

The presider will sound a gentle gong to call us to our seats for a brief period of silence to center us before liturgy.

Following this silence the music minister will announce the liturgical Sunday, the song and page, and we will stand as the procession begins.

Procession and Presentation of our Gifts *Following the Prayers of the Faithful*

Our cantor will lead an appropriate call-and-response song to accompany our offertory procession. Starting with the forward pews, we move into the altar area while singing. Those who have gifts of food and money should place them in the respective baskets at the base of the altar, and then join the customary circle around the altar. (As this is going on, the acolyte and some of the congregation who are nearby will move the ambo, microphone and stand to the side and bring the candle to the table.)

Offertory Procession of Bread and Wine

While the singing continues, two community members move to the center aisle, where there will be a table with bread and wine.

They will process with the bread and wine, holding it about chest high, and place it on the altar. They then resume their places in the circle.

Sharing of Peace

The deacon or presider will offer the sign of peace.

“Dona Nobis Pacem” or another simple chant will be sung,

While singing, the community will move around and offer to each other a gesture of peace.

Recessional: *Following the communion prayer and the announcements*

As the closing song is announced, the person who carried the cross in the entrance procession, will bring the cross to the front of the altar and stand next to the presider as they face the community.

They will remain in place as the final blessing and closing song take place.

As the community disperses the cross bearer will carry the cross to storage room and the presider will remain in the church for visiting.