

# Our Lady Of The Immaculate Conception

## SANCTUARY and TABERNACLE REVERENCE

The Tabernacle, containing the Real Presence of Jesus, and is located in the Sanctuary in an elevated position behind the main Altar. This placement allows for the focus to be on the Tabernacle, outside of the Mass, where Jesus is reserved and truly present.

As found in Sacred Scripture when Moses draws closer and closer to the burning bush not being consumed, only to hear the voice of GOD saying, *Take your sandals off for you are entering holy ground*" (Exo. 3-5). Whenever we enter the church's worship space we are in a **holy place** and walking on holy ground. Just like Moses, we are challenged to take off our sandals by shaking off our pride and egotism and adoring Him in holy sacred reverence.

Please remember, that the sanctuary area is the holiest part of the church, and it symbolically represents Heaven.

*Therefore, at no time should anyone enter this area either when coming into or leaving the church other than the clergy or the duly scheduled ministers.*

So, what then is the way to properly show reverence to the tabernacle and/or altar when we enter the church?

- **SILENCE.** *Upon entering any Church, an attitude of silence and respect should permeate our whole being. Remember, you are in the presence of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the God of the universe!*
- **GENUFLECTION.** Once again, remember that the way we pay tribute to the Eucharistic Lord in the Tabernacle is by the genuflection. It is also appropriate to genuflect when entering and leaving the church.  
→ *If you are physically unable to genuflect, then bow your head in reverence.*
- **KNEELING.** If you do not have serious health problems, it is most appropriate to kneel in reverence and silent adoration before the Eucharistic Lord.
- **SILENT REVERENCE AND LOVE.** Reverence can also be expressed by silently gazing at the Blessed Sacrament, and then looking up and contemplating Jesus on the cross and thanking the Lord.
- **Outside of Mass.** The Tabernacle is the central focus of attention in the church you should bow your head each time when passing in front of the Tabernacle.
- **During Mass.** The primary focus during Mass is the sacred altar, where the Eucharistic sacrifice occurs before us. In this case, we are to bow to the altar.

**Note:** The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GRIM)*, which outlines liturgical instructions for the mass liturgy, states that genuflection to the Tabernacle during the mass should not take place.