

## Chapel Decorum

Chapel decorum consists of those traditional practices we do when we are in or near a chapel. They are designed to reflect our respect for the Oratory, the holy area within which we commune with God as a Community.

- Prepare prayer books prior to heading for the chapel (place ribbons and inserts in their proper place; pre-read the day's lectionary).
- Arrive at the chapel a few minutes before the Office begins.
- As we approach the chapel area, we end our conversations and begin to prepare our hearts and minds.
- We open and close doors quietly.
- As we enter, we make a slight bow toward the Tabernacle, a vessel holding the Blessed Sacrament; if none present, then a bow toward the altar area.
- We find our seat, and spend the time before the Office continuing to prepare our hearts and minds.
- We try to avoid any conversations or unnecessary noise.
- If we are assigned to read a passage or present a homily, we offer a slight bow to the Tabernacle or altar on the way to the lectern/podium.
- We do the same upon returning to our seat.
- When we sing or chant, we must be able to hear the person next to us, or we are too loud.
- At the end of the Office, upon leaving, we offer a slight bow toward the Tabernacle or altar.
- No food or drink in the Chapel.
- Mobile phones should be off or absent.