

St. Michael Catholic Church
Liturgical Ministers
When to Bow or Genuflect

Now that our tabernacle is in the sanctuary, we have different gestures to observe.

General Norm

Outside of the liturgy, everyone entering or leaving the sanctuary genuflects toward the tabernacle. During liturgy, we make a low bow to the altar (not the tabernacle).

Bowing to the altar takes precedence from the opening sign of the cross until the final blessing.

Exceptions

If you are carrying something (book, candle, tray, etc.) you do not genuflect or bow.

Examples

In the entry procession, the priest and those not carrying something, genuflect at the first step. Before and after the readings, lectors make a low bow to the altar.

A cantor going to the ambo bows with the lector.

At the collection, ushers come forward, make a low bow to the altar, turn and receive the collection. Eucharistic Ministers process forward following the sacristan and bow to the altar as a group.

After Communion EMs bow to the altar and return to their pew.

For the exit procession the priest, deacon and servers genuflect at the bottom step, turn and go out.

Liturgical ministers are role models

The people in the pews are watching you, so remember that you are a role model.

Make it a point to know the correct movements and make it a habit to follow them.