

## **Children's Participation During the Divine Liturgy**

For most parents, bringing a child to Liturgy is “more work than it's worth.” It's much easier to give them something quiet to do in the pew so we, as parents, can pay attention to the Liturgy. However, the word “liturgy” means work. We all work together to praise God and ask for His mercy and help. If we explain to children that we show we are working when we participate (stand, listen, kneel, pray aloud), then they will begin to see the importance of praying and paying attention in church. Here are a few suggestions:

Stand when the priest brings out the Gospel (Little Entrance).

Listen when the reader reads from the Bible (Epistle Reading).

Stand and listen when the priest reads from the Gospel (Gospel Reading).

Stand and bow when the priest censes us.

Stand and pray when the priest carries out the Holy gifts (Great Entrance).

Stand when we shake hands and say “Christ is in our midst. He is and always shall be” (Kiss of Peace).

Stand and say the Creed.

Kneel and pray for forgiveness when the Holy Spirit changes the bread and wine (The Consecration).

Stand and say the Lord's Prayer.

Stand when we say the Communion Prayers.

Quietly walk up when we receive Holy Communion.

