

## OUR BEHAVIOUR DURING SERVICES

Visitors to our church often comment positively on the ability of worshippers to move about the church during services. However, this freedom is a privilege and not a right. Accordingly, it is important that worshippers become familiar with those times during the service when moving around the church is not appropriate.

During the Liturgy, worshippers should avoid lighting or blowing out candles, venerating icons or generally moving about the church at the following times:

- When the Royal Doors have been opened and the priest commences his procession out of the altar (the Little Entry) holding the Gospel Book, up until he has re-entered the altar
- When the Gospel is being read by the priest or deacon
- From the commencement of the choir singing the Cherubic Hymn (*Izhe Heruvimi*) and while the priest comes out of the altar with the chalice and platen (the Great Entry) until he has returned to the altar through the Royal Doors
- During the Eucharistic Canon which commences after the choir has finished singing the *Creed* (*Veruyu*) and ends when the choir has finished singing *It is Meet* (*Dostoyno Yest*)
- During the singing of the *Lord's Prayer* (*Otche Nash*)
- During the prayer recited by the priest when holding the chalice just before communion

If you are not sure as to when you can move about the church please ask someone. A good guide also is to look and see what others around you are doing. If there is no movement, that is probably because it is one of the important moments of the services mentioned above.

Be attentive as to what is happening around you. If you are venerating an icon and you see the priest or deacon approaching with the incense, step back for a moment until he has passed by. When the priest turns from the icons and censes in your direction, acknowledge this with a bow.

**Children are encouraged to attend church services and are most welcome**, but they must be supervised at all times by an adult and not allowed to run on their own about the church. Not only is this a distraction for those trying to pray, but is potentially dangerous in the vicinity of candles and hot wax. If they become noisy during the service, small children should be taken outside until they calm down.

Father Alexander Morozow  
Rector