



Regarding Incense During Mass:

Since the earliest centuries of our Christian faith, the offering of incense has been a significant part of the Church's liturgies. Firmly rooted in Sacred Scripture, the use of incense as a way of offering our prayers to God and as a means of sanctifying and blessing links us to the worship of the ancient temple in Jerusalem and is also seen in the heavenly worship of the New Jerusalem. As one liturgy professor once jokingly reminded his class, "There are only two scents mentioned in Scripture: brimstone in Hell and incense in Heaven, so choose which one you want to smell for eternity!"

However, as a person with asthma and environmental allergies, I do understand and sympathize with the members of our parish who have an adverse reaction to incense. Therefore, in addition to funerals and exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (in which the use of incense is explicitly prescribed), we will use incense only at the 10:30 Masses on Sundays which are significant days of solemnity (as we have done over the past few weeks following Easter). We will also use incense during the vigil Masses preceding Holy Days of Obligation which fall during the week. I will strive to remind the parish in advance of the days on which incense will be used in worship.

My suggestion for those who are incense sensitive is to either attend another Mass or to sit in one of the back corners of the church, as far away from the sanctuary or the aisle as possible.

I hope this information helps and answers some of the questions that have been asked recently.

I am grateful to serve such a wonderful parish as we strive to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 96:9)

-Fr. Jones