

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens www.john23rd.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 - 11 December 2016

Our Parish Mission

The parish of St John XXIII is a faith community with the Eucharist as its heart. Inspired by John XXIII's prophetic opening of the windows of the Church, we welcome the fresh air of the Holy Spirit, inviting every person to share in the responsibility of enriching the life and faith of our community by sharing their gifts and talents."



Who Do
YOU
Say I Am?

Parish Priest:	Fr John McSweeney	✉	FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
Asst. Priest:	Fr Robert William	✉	FrRobert@john23rd.org.au
Deacon:	Nicephorus Tan	✉	DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au

Mass Times

Monday to Friday 9:00am

Also Wednesday 9:00am Holy Cross
Primary during school term

Saturday 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
6:00pm (Youth)

Baptism 12:00pm *Sunday by appointment*

Reconciliation (First Rite)

Saturday 5:00 - 5:45pm
And after any weekday masses

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday 8.30 - 4.00pm

Parish Office Contacts

☎ (02)9852 0580 📞 0403 766468 AH

Secretary: Tanya Gatt

✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au

Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)

✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au

Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Wed/Fri)

✉ admin@john23rd.org.au

Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

✉ businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

Devotions & Prayers

Novena Masses

Tuesday 7:30pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

First Friday 7:30pm
Sacred Heart of Jesus

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 6:30 - 7:30pm

First Friday 6:30pm followed by
7:15pm Benediction

Saturday 8:00 - 9:00am (*Vocations*)

Sacrament of the Sick

First Saturday 9:00am Mass or upon request

Divine Office

Friday 12:00pm with Adoration

Sunday 8:15am

Praise & Worship

3rd Saturday 7:30pm

led by SJ23rd Prayer Group

2nd Saturday 7:30pm

led by CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

Friday evenings 7:00pm

led by Christ Catholic Community Prayer
Group at the church kitchen

From the Pastor's desk

Today's readings invite us to rejoice at the rebirth of Jesus in our lives as we are preparing for our annual Christmas celebration. Today is called *Gaudete* Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*," i.e., "Rejoice in the Lord always." So, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior into our hearts and lives

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God is going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. James the Apostle . in the second reading, encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the second coming of Jesus. Finally, in the first part of today's Gospel reading, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfilment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. Let us rejoice in the coming of our Lord.

- **CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION**

Tuesday, 20th December at 7:30 PM St Bernadette's, Castle Hill

Wednesday 21st December at 7:30 PM Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville

Thursday 22nd December at 7:30 PM St Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills

- **Mass of the Rooster**

Join us in preparing for Christmas with the annual 9 day novena of the Mass of the Rooster (Misa de Gallo). December 16-24, 2016 at 6.00am at St John XXIII Parish.

- Wednesday the 14th December - We will be having Liturgy of the Word. As we have the End of Year Mass at Holy Cross at 9.00am.

Kind Regards

Father Robert

WHERE IS MY LIFE HEADED, POPE INVITES US TO ASK (cont'd)**Straining away**

This awareness of the ephemeral nature of earthly things does lead to a question, the Holy Father suggested, a question about the meaning of our lives.

“Using an image,” he explained “we could say that these readings [of the Mass] serve as a ‘strainer’ through which our life can be poured: they remind us that almost everything in this world is passing away, like running water. But there are treasured realities that remain, like a precious stone in a strainer. What endures, what has value in life, what riches do not disappear? Surely these two: the Lord and our neighbour. These two riches do no disappear!

“These are the greatest goods; these are to be loved. Everything else – the heavens, the earth, all that is most beautiful, even this Basilica – will pass away; but we must never exclude God or others from our lives.”

The Pope emphasized that exclusion refers to “concrete people.”

“The human person, set by God at the pinnacle of creation, is often discarded, set aside in favour of ephemeral things,” he lamented. “This is unacceptable, because in God’s eyes man is the most precious good.”

Reiterating one of his frequent warnings, the Pope said it is “ominous that we are growing used to this rejection.”

“We should be worried when our consciences are anaesthetized and we no longer see the brother or sister suffering at our side, or notice the grave problems in our world, which become a mere refrain familiar from the headlines on the evening news,” he said.

The Pope said that we must open our eyes “to our neighbour, especially to our brothers and sisters who are forgotten and excluded, to the ‘Lazarus’ at our door. That is where the Church’s magnifying glass is pointed,” he said. “May the Lord free us from turning it towards ourselves. May he turn us away from the trappings that distract us, from interests and privileges, from attachment to power and glory, from being seduced by the spirit of the world.”

After the Mass, during his address before praying the midday Angelus, Francis reiterated the same message:

“Jesus in the Gospel exhorts us to have clear in our minds and hearts the certainty that God guides our history and knows the ultimate end of things and events.

“History — with its uncertain progression and the interweaving of good and evil — develops under the merciful gaze of the Lord. Everything that happens is conserved in Him. Our life cannot be lost because it is in his hands.”

Full text of homily: <https://zenit.org/articles/popes-homily-at-jubilee-for-socially-excluded/>

Translation of Angelus address: <https://zenit.org/articles/angelus-address-on-awaiting-the-end-times/>

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**



**So faith comes
from HEARING, and
hearing through
THE WORD OF
CHRIST**

Romans 10:17

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reflection

There can be no doubt: Jesus is the 'one who is to come'. The first part of today's Gospel reading answers the question raised by John the Baptist.

But as the messengers depart, Jesus turns his attention away from a description of his own ministry as the fulfilment of a messianic prophecy from Isaiah. He speaks first of the virtue and courage of his forerunner, and then of the dignity and grandeur of all those who have been called to a privileged participation in the riches of God's kingdom. The Baptist is not just a prophet. He too fulfils messianic prophecies. We too are aware that Jesus' ministry opened with the presentation of John the Baptist as the messianic forerunner.

But Jesus now adds further information on the greatness of the Baptist in God's story. Until the time of Jesus, John the Baptist was the greatest of all human beings. Indeed, this is a remarkable praise. John the Baptist has been a man committed to his call. He is no reed swaying in the breeze. He is God's prophet, prepared to accept this task, cost him what it may.

We are the disciple of Jesus in this world and are associated with him in the proclamation of the Good News to the poor. We are not preparing the messianic era – we belong to it.

As the liturgy joins Jesus in speaking of the Baptist, we too can praise God for calling and gracing the great people from our sacred history. They have remained firm to their call, and 'made straight the paths of the Lord'. It is not only John the Baptist who has done this; we can all recall those special people of God in our lives. But what of our own dignity? Even the least of us is called to a greatness which surpasses that of the forerunner. This is 'good news' indeed. Both encouragement and challenge.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth, and in
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including
'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried; he descended
into hell; on the third day he rose again
from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty; from
there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and life
everlasting. Amen.

Our School Communities

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

John XXIII and St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Readings for Next Week

12 Mon 3rd week of Advent

1st Reading Numbers 24:2-7. 15-17

Psalm Ps 24:4-9

Gospel Matthew 21:23-27

13 Tues Saint Lucy (M)

1st Reading Zephaniah 3:1-2. 9-13

2 Corinthians 10:17 - 11:2

Psalm Ps 33:2-3. 6-7. 16. 18-19. 23

Ps 30:3-4. 6-8. 16-17

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

Matthew 25:1-13

14 Wed Saint John of the Cross (M)

1st Reading Isaiah 45:6-8. 18. 21-26

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Psalm Ps 84:9-14

Ps 36:3-6. 30-31

Gospel Luke 7:19-23

Luke 14:25-33

15 Thu 3rd week of Advent

1st Reading Isaiah 54:1-10

Psalm Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13

Gospel Luke 7:24-30

16 Fri 3rd week of Advent

1st Reading Isaiah 56:1-3. 6-8

Psalm Ps 66:2-3. 5. 7-8

Gospel John 5:33-36

17 Sat 3rd week of Advent

1st Reading Genesis 49:2. 8-10

Psalm Ps 71:1-4. 7-8. 17

Gospel Matthew 1:1-17

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Parish Notices



If you can contribute some time, energy and expertise to YOUR parish there are a number of areas requiring your support.

Money counters - Help with counting of the weekend collections scheduled once a week for 2-3 hrs. Contact: Tanya in the parish office (Tue-Fri) T9852 0580. Closing date: As soon as possible.

Baptismal Team - to assist in at least one Sunday Baptism every month. If you are interested, please contact Camille Jamon at 0406 - 859604.

Gardeners - If you have a green thumb, love to be under the sun taking in a breath of fresh air come and look after a patch of church garden. Some equipment is provided. Contact: John – 9899 2473. Closing date: As soon as possible.

Church cleaners - We are currently looking for reliable, consistent and quality cleaners. Gather some friends and pick the time of day. Some cleaning equipment provided. Contact: John – 9899 2473. Closing date: As soon as possible.

Liturgical Ministry Courses in 2017

The Office for Worship of the Diocese of Parramatta is offering Liturgical Ministry Courses in 2017. The courses are open to those interested in becoming Minister of the Word, Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion, Minister for the Sick & Dying (Homebound), Adult Altar Server or Acolyte. Application forms available at the foyer. For more information, contact Bob Agbulos, Liturgy team coordinator on 0422 106 525 or via email on bragbulos@gmail.com.

Want to do something extra for Advent?

Come and join us in the Church kitchen on Friday evenings at 7pm as we discuss Sunday readings for Advent.

Come and join us! Just turn up!!

Mass of the Rooster

Join us in our preparation for the birth of Christ by attending this 9-day novena mass at 6:00am from 16th to 24th Dec 2016. Bring a plate to share for breakfast after the novena mass.

Parish Notices

Italian Pilgrimage

Come and join us for a pilgrimage following the footsteps of St John 23rd

Duration: 17 day pilgrimage

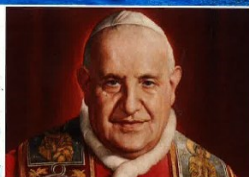
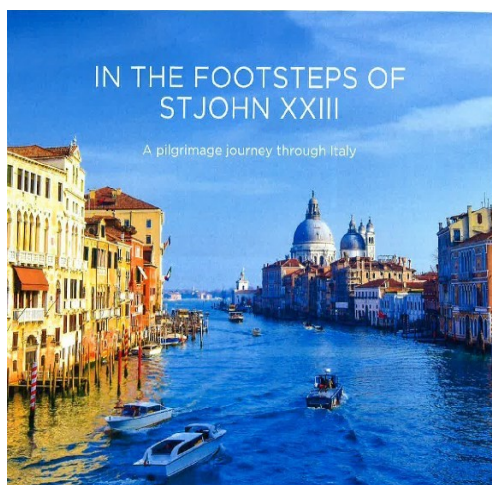
Departure: Friday, 22 September 2017

Tour Code: 7PV06

For further information contact:

Toll Free: Harvest 1800 819 156

Brochures can found at the church foyer.



St John XXIII
1912-1963
Pilgrimage 98

Duration: 17 day pilgrimage

Departure: Friday 22 September 2017

Tour Code: 7PV06

harvest.
journeys

www.harvestjourneys.com

Toll free: 1800 819 156

Diocese Notices

28 December - Mass of the Holy Innocents

The principal celebrant for the 23rd annual pro-life Mass will be Sydney's Bishop Richard Umbers. Mass at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Ave, Kellyville, followed by a rosary procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents for devotions and benediction. Everyone is welcome to pray for the protection of all human life (especially the unborn) from conception to natural death. A luncheon will be provided – please bring a plate to share. Inquiries (02) 9629 2595.

11-14 January 2017 - Girls' Camp at Mount Schoenstatt

Girls aged 10-12 are invited to a three-day camp at Mt Schoenstatt. We will explore how our faith connects with our everyday lives. Program also includes prayer, craft and fun activities. From 4pm on Wednesday 11 January to 4pm on Saturday 14 January.

Venue: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa.

Cost: \$110 (includes food & accomm)

RSVP: Monday 12 December (registration form & deposit required).
Inquiries: Sr. M Luka 0439 537843,
sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Reynaldo Tiga, Des Ballangue,
Lolita Ludovice

Deceased:

Jeffrey Turner, Alfredo Pangilinan Sr,
Giorgio Kavo

Anniversary:

Emilia Catabay, Ismaelie Nelson,
Vicente De La Paz, Vince Perrone

Sick:

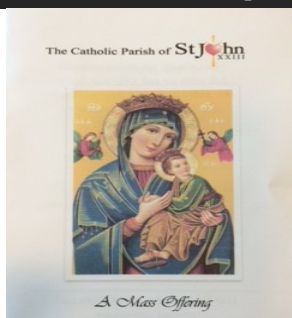
Amando Magno, Jovie Disterhofft,
Mark de Jesus, Elgin Duenas, Pat Daley,
Karam Matte, Sue Laxton, Cay Espanta,
Donatila Ramos

Thanksgiving:

Marion Ray, Sarah-Grace Paguinto,
Amelia Supe



Mass cards available at the parish office.



Paying our debt together

The First Collection – for the diocese. The 1st Collection is used for the support of the Bishop and priests of the Diocese.

The Second Collection – for the parish. The 2nd Collection is used to meet our parish running costs (*rates, utilities, insurance, telecommunication, computers, photocopiers, stationery and postage, church and altar requisites, repairs and maintenance of the church, presbytery, office buildings and grounds*).

It is used to pay the team/staff salaries, superannuation and each priest's car expenses, loan interest and loan repayment.

It is also used to provide for our pastoral and ministry outreach activities from the parish.

Money received in the 2nd collection is banked into the parish "Church Account".

If you would like to be a part of the church's plan giving program, an **SJ23rd form** (white) is available at the church foyer or contact the parish office.



If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in your home please contact the parish office.

Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*“The secret of everything is to let oneself be carried by God, and so to carry him to others” —
Pope John XXIII*

— FAITH FORMATION TEAM —

† **16th of December** start of **Mass of the Rooster**, a 9 day dawn novena in preparation for the birth of Christ. Starts at 6:00am for 9 days. Come and join us and bring a breakfast plate to share.

† We continue to ask for host families from to pray the **Rosary** at home and request for our Blessed Mother’s intercessions.

Tuesday nights beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm, Evening Prayer of the Church at 7.00pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, sung Benediction Mass 7.30pm and Novena prayers at 7:40pm.

If you want the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home contact Bart Sarlabus - bart.sarlabus@gmail.com. Pick up the statue after the Tuesday novena mass and return a week after before the start of the novena mass. This is a good time for the whole family to pray the rosary together and maybe invite some other family members and friends to join you in prayer.

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

December	6 <i>D’Cunha</i>	13 Brosas	20 Paguinto	27 Manoj	
January	3 Manoj	10 Sebastian	17 Shalini	24 Perera	31 <i>Available</i>

— COMMUNITY BUILDING TEAM —

† We are looking for kids in **years 7-10** who might be interested to join our youth choir. If you **play a musical instrument** or an **avid singer**, you are welcome to join us every **2nd Sunday of the month** for the 6pm mass. For more information please contact RJ Samonte at gtkyouth@gmail.com or raf.samonte@hotmail.com

Why we do what we do...

What to do at Mass?

Jeff Gubin, Jennifer Nestojko, Mike Hayes

So once you get to mass, what do you do? Well, it's helpful to think of Mass as you would a dinner party. Here are five tips that will make it go well.

1. Get There - Try to arrive about 10 minutes or so before the start of the Mass.

This allows you plenty of time to greet others and it gives you some time to center yourself and meditate. There may be some churches where parishioners are urged to greet one another and talk. Mass is about celebrating relationships both with God and with your fellow Mass-goers, so it's nice to be able to catch up with people before you get started. Think of it like a birthday dinner for a good friend: you wouldn't want to walk right in when the dinner starts. You'd want to come by early, wish your friend a happy birthday, and then chat with your other friends at the party before dinner starts. If you don't come to Mass early, it's like missing cocktails: sure, you can do it, but it's a lot less fun.

If you are a regular, be mindful of new parishioners and visitors. Welcome them into our larger family just as God welcomes every one of us.

If you're running late, you have a lot of options. First off, there are later Masses at just about every church. Check out your local diocese's website to find out what times Masses start. However, if you've really got to go to this Church for this Mass, just be sensitive to the flow of the service-try to hang in the doorway or in the back of the Church until a convenient time to quickly find a spot. Again, it's a lot like a dinner party: if the host is giving a speech, you don't want to walk up to your seat and distract everyone.

It's always better to go to Mass than to not go to Mass, but sometimes it's best just to reschedule. If you're running late because of

totally unavoidable delays-and this is the only Mass you can attend-then you can still receive communion even if you come to Mass after the Gospel is read (which happens about halfway through the service). If you could have come to Mass earlier and just didn't though, Catholics consider it a sin, simply because you're treating Mass like a job to get done and ignoring the importance of your relationship to God and your community. After all, if your friend were having that birthday party and you barged in 45 minutes late, shook her hand, gave her a hot dog you bought at the 7-11, and then stormed out again because you had something else to do, your friend would probably wonder why you came at all. The same is true for Mass.

2. Getting in the Door

a) Walking into the church - As you enter the church, a member of the parish may greet you, and someone might hand you a song sheet, encouraging you to sing. Any Christian community should welcome newcomers, but it's just as important that you allow yourself to be welcomed. If you march into the rear pew, look really solemn, and then march right out again, you're not exactly making it easy for people to get to know you. If folks don't talk to you, check your breath, use a breath mint if necessary, and then shake someone's hand and say hello. Mass is a lot more meaningful if you know the people you're going to Mass with.

b) Holy Water - The Baptismal Font or some dispenser of "holy water" is located near the entrance in most churches. Catholics dip their fingers in the water and make a sign of the cross. The water reminds them of the sacrament of Baptism and unites them with Christ, who said "all you who are thirsty, come to the water." The water is called "holy" simply because it is blessed.

3. Get to a Pew - Catholics are a respectful lot. So before entering your pew, be sure to bow or genuflect as a sign of respect for what's before you. It might be a little odd, but just think of it like having to kiss your grandmother on both cheeks instead of just one. The rules are actually pretty simple:

a) When to genuflect: When you pass the tabernacle, which is a box usually in the front of the Church that contains the Blessed Sacrament. This shows respect to the presence of Christ contained in the Tabernacle.

At the beginning of mass, as you sit down, directing your genuflect towards the tabernacle, if it contains the Blessed Sacrament. You will know if it contains the Blessed Sacrament because a candle will be lit right next to it, or because you asked someone, or because you are God. The candle thing is probably easiest.

At the end of Mass, as Mass-goers leave their seat, directing the genuflection towards the tabernacle if it contains the Blessed Sacrament. (There is no need to genuflect before or after receiving communion.)

b) When to bow: When facing the altar, if there is no tabernacle behind it, or if the tabernacle does not contain the Blessed Sacrament. If you have to cross in front of the altar as a lector or a speaker. If you're Catholic and choose to receive Communion, you also need to bow before receiving communion in most places.

To genuflect, drop to your right knee to the floor in a solemn, slow way. Go as close as you can if you don't think you can do that-while God may appreciate your sacrifice, fellow Mass-goers probably won't enjoy the ambulance that will come to pick you up if you bust your knee out backwards.

4. Wake up and smell the incense

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION The mass is not like the movies, where you passively sit and watch, and it isn't even like a melodrama, where you get to cheer and boo on cue. Even if some Masses, like Palm Sunday, may seem like a melodrama, Mass-goers are not an audience. They're active participants who make the liturgy happen. At most masses, it's important that a community of believers is present. A priest is necessary for a Mass, but so are the Mass-goers! The words and actions of Catholics at Mass are an active form of prayer, and a real chance to build a relationship with those around them and with God. For Catholics, Mass is a lot of things at once: it's a re-enactment of Christ's suffering and death, a celebration of community, and the chance to connect with the real presence of Christ's body and blood. Not only is your participation vital to making all of that happen, but it also will make your experience of the Mass much more exciting.

5. Mass Manners - Mass is like any social event. It's considered good form to be attentive to those around you and bad form not to. So, unless you expect a call from God, it's a good idea to keep the cell phones and beepers turned off (or set to vibrate if you have an emergency situation). You might try leaving your cell phone at home, unless you've already become so addicted to it you'd shrivel up. If the room is available, you might take your crying baby to the "cry room" where you can see the Mass but not disturb others or simply take him or her outside. It's just like if your friend were giving a speech at a big dinner, save for his retirement. Sure, you want to hear the speech, but if your kid is crying really loud it hurts it for everyone.

Mass is actually not that hard. Just follow along with what other folks do, be respectful of traditions, and try to enjoy it. After all, the dinner party isn't only for Jesus. It's also for you.

Youth Corner

GTK (Getting to Know)



St John XXIII Parish youth group where our young people get to know God, the Catholic faith and each other through Gospel reflection, music, active participation at mass, games and food! So, if you are in years 4 - 9, come along to one of our sessions and let us grow together in our faith.

When: 2nd (choir) and 4th Sunday

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Contact: gkyouth@gmail.com

Info: <http://www.gtkyouth.com/>

IGNITE - Enkindling the fire of faith

Young adults from 18 - 35 years of age meets every 3rd Sunday of the month after the 6:00pm mass. Monthly guest speaker, discussions & shared supper

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays
Praise & Worship

Where: Church

Time: after 6:00pm vigil mass

YFC (Youth for Christ)

When: Meets every 3rd Sundays

Where: St Mark's Staff Room

Time: 1:00pm Break open the word then 6.00pm Youth Mass

Colour In

Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath.

The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Color in the Advent Wreath.



Word Find

Jesus is coming to save us

Z W O X U R O O P H G I Q S S I O
X H N T B Z G Y I T X R L R Q S M
F E M A L V X C C A L V E V T Y I
N T G I G U A H K P O W V N R A K
H C Z R C A O Q F B O Q V J I T O
K S M H E C Y F O L Q W T I S K Q
G K G Y F A U P L X H C B U Q U R
I N X A O V T O R E G N E S S E M
O Y H W H M F E P A D B I J E K T
L S Z F D C T T R A K M M X I B C
E O C Q P U M Y S P L Z Y N P S E
P Y Z D O O G D Q A Q A G Y M H J
R U Y Z B P U B Z T E D C O F S E
O B O J X T R K P J O L Y E B D R
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