

ST PAUL'S

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*Bulletin Highlights*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year C*

*23rd December 2018*

*Church Etiquette this Christmas*



The following was prepared by Reverend Anne Barber, Pastor in Florida, USA. She writes from her experiences from previous years. Her observations are not really necessary for our own regular parishioners. But they make for interesting reading, nonetheless. The following is an abbreviated presentation of some of her remarks:

Over the Christmas and New Year holidays, I was able to visit other churches for some of their special services. It was quite an eye-opener. So here are a few thoughts for consideration:

1. When the service starts, be polite to the pastor and those who came to listen. Find your seat and refrain from conversation.
2. Put something in the offering. even if you are a visitor in the church. How much? Since you are receiving a spiritual meal, how about at least the price of your latte at Starbucks, or the cost of your last restaurant meal? I certainly don't fault those who can't give. But on Christmas Eve I visited a church service where a visitor bedecked in gold jewellery, and another checking emails on her new iPhone, just passed the offering basket along. As did five well-dressed folks in the row in front of me.
3. Stay in your pews until the final hymn is over. Heading toward the exit after receiving communion or before the service ends is disrespectful to the worship leader, and very distracting to the other parishioners. Those who wouldn't leave work before quitting time, or school before the final bell, or a movie before it ends, or a family gathering without saying goodbye, think nothing of walking out on God before His worship service concludes.
4. Turn off those mobile phones. If you forgot, and your phone rings, for goodness sake, don't answer it. Push the off/vibrate button and go outside if it's a call you have to answer.
5. If your baby won't stop crying quickly, please take them to the restroom, nursery or cry room.
6. Finally, if you are coughing or sneezing heavily and persistently, out of love for the parishioners seated near you, who you will certainly infect, please stay home. (No, it's probably not "just an allergy," and yes, you probably are "still contagious.")

Having gotten that off my heart, God bless all you parishioners who are sincerely seeking an encounter with the Living Christ. Who come faithfully to church, respect the experience of those around you, partake of the entire service, give regularly and cheerfully to the Lord's work, and volunteer in some ministry within your church. You are the backbone and life blood of your congregations. The Lord sees your faithful service and will indeed reward your efforts.

## *Sacrament of Penance Programme*

If there are any parents who have children who have been baptised and in at least Year 2 school at Mass, and yet to fully register, then please see Father or one of the attendants in the chapel after Mass. Thanks.



### Plenary Council 2020

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us also prepare for the future of his Church in Australia by participating in Plenary Council 2020. Details at the Church door or [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).

### *Christmas Masses ~ All Indoor with vision and audio in the chapel.*

<i>Mass Time</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>Musicians and Vocalists</i>	<i>Especially suited for...</i>
Monday 5:00 PM Vigil	Father Michael	Maria, Sarah and Sally	Little children & elderly folk
Monday 7:00 PM Vigil	Father Michael	Belinda, Tasha, Damian & Betty	Older kids and teenagers
Monday 9:00 PM Vigil	Father Joe	Tony LoCascio and the band	Families a little older
Midnight Mass	Father Joe	Choir ~ carols from 11:30 PM	Those who love solemnity
Tuesday 9:00 AM Mass	Father Michael	Jen and Josh	All families, all ages

**NATIVITY PLAY ~ 5:00 PM VIGIL:** Parents with little children from about K-3 are welcome to include their little cherubs in the Christmas Nativity play after Holy Communion. This little dramatic presentation of the Christmas story is always a wonderful few minutes for the children. Cheryl & Elizabeth will be organising a rehearsal on this coming Friday in the Church at 2:00 PM. If interested, please be on time. And Santa might be at this Mass as well.