Hospitality

I guess the essence of Hospitality is captured in that song which we often use as an entrance song for beginning our Liturgy — "All are Welcome"!!

While it is true that all are welcome, hopefully — it also brings with it some measure of responsibility. When I am being invited some place, there are usually certain conventions to abide by or to guide the process of our being together in a fruitful manner.

Do we have conventions or best practices for coming to Church? I don't ever recall a booklet of the "Do's and Don'ts" — what to do and what not to do in Church. You might call them "Rules of Engagement" as the movie title. Yet, I think we all learned some of the rules from our parents, the primary teachers. Which ones do you remember?

I sometimes think we have lost sight of those conventions in our Catholic tradition, that is, if we ever had them. Maybe we never really had such conventions, or best practices.

I believe there was some standard protocol or belief that one should be quiet when entering a Catholic Church. We had so much success with that one, that when we introduced the new changes in Liturgy some 50 years ago asking people to respond in the Mass, we had great difficulty (and still do in many places) getting them to actually do so!

If you were the person charged with writing the "Rules of Engagement in Catholic Worship" what are some of the items/conventions you would address?

Please write me your responses or send an email.

Do you ever find yourself in the midst of the Liturgy wondering, "Why are we all here?" — or "Why am I here?" — or "Why is this one or that one here? They don't appear to be getting anything out of it. For some it appears to be pure torture — why are they here?"

I often ask myself those questions!! I wonder in my mind what can we do to help that situation to help those people? Is it an issue of Hospitality? Are we not sufficiently hospitable? If we were more Hospitable would it change the environment in the Mass — or is there something else amiss? Do we not have the correct Rules of Engagement?

It makes me think of that wonderful song by Diana Ross, the theme song from Mahogany —

Do you know where you're going to?

Do you like the things that life is showing you?

Where are you going to, do you know?

Do you get what you're hoping for?

Would our Liturgy make a huge leap in engagement if we each answered the above questions?

Do you know?

—Fr. Gerry



December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent



To Live as the Body of Christ

Mass Intentions

Week of Dec. 19th- Dec. 25th:

7:30 am Mon.: Roy Orbison (RIP) 7:30 am Tues.: Dora Watts (RIP)

6:00 pm Wed.: Rosie Morris (RIP)

7:30 am Thurs.: Wenche Behring (RIP)

7:30 am Fri.: HE & Roselyn and Jon Pickett (RIP)

5:30 pm Sat.: People of the Parish Midnight Mass: People of the Parish

10:30 am Sunday: Margaret Caperton and Ida Romero (RIP)

Prayer Intentions

John Lawson Peggy & George Hamilton Trish Harris Cara Irby Jane Kaiser, mother of Amy Ortiz Hayden Holloway, grandson of Shearon Simpson Roscoe & Jonnie Null, uncle and aunt of Dan Hammond Kay Breaux, niece of Kathy Gieger

Repose of the Soul

Sam Iupe

Mary Bandish, friend of Lou Ianelli Christie Junquist, cousin of Lou Ianelli Tom Metcalfe, brother of Margaret Hassin Karen Roussel, sister of Breeland Poole

Adoration This Week: *** Monday—Wednesday 8am—12pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.

Reminders

** Important Upcoming Dates:

Christmas Mass Schedule: Dec. 24th- 5:30 pm and Midnight Mass (Choral Presentation begins at 11:30 pm); Dec. 25th- 10:30 am mass (no 8am mass)-There will be no Nursery or Children's Liturgy on the holidays of December 25th and January 1st.

*This Sunday, December 18th 2pm-4 pm. Women's Guild will be hosting a Christmas Party in the Family Life Center. All women of the parish over the age of 18 are invited along with a guest. Live entertainment provided, along with great food and drink! Also, please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Food Pantry. Hope to see you there!

*Youth Info: The Big Deal Ski Information Meeting will be this Sunday, Dec. 18th @ 3:30pm in the FLC Lounge. All going on the trip need to attend this meeting. The Big Deal Christmas party will be in the gym from 5-7 pm.

*Your 2017 offering envelopes are here. Please pick up your box on the tables in front of the Early Learning Center cafeteria. If you are interested in receiving an annual boxed set or would like information about Automatic Withdrawal for your offering, please contact Renee `Carpenter finance@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or 601-292-6083.

Weekly offering for Dec. 11th: \$23,213



New Announcements

The church office will close on Wed, Dec 21 at noon and reopen after the holidays on Jan. 3rd. There will be no adoration during these dates. Take advantage of this holiday season and spend this time with family. Religious Education classes will resume on January 11th.



We will host another **Discovering Christ** Session in March! This is the first session of the ChristLife series. Registration will open in January.

*The Catholic Diocese announces that World Marriage Day will be held on

Sun., Feb. 12, 2017. The mass honors all couples but specifically invites those celebrating their 25th, 50th, and 60th anniversary or beyond 60 years. Please email the church office by Dec. 20th if you are celebrating one of these anniversaries in 2017.

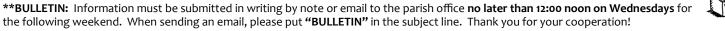


Congratulations to Laura and Duncan Fraiser on the birth of their daughter, Elliott Grace!

Save the Date: Saint Paul Drawdown: January 28, 2017. More information to come!!

Applications are now being accepted at Saint Joseph Catholic School for the 2017-2018 school year. You can pick up an application at the school or go online to our website, www.stjoebruins.com, under the Admissions tab and print out or we can mail one to you. Registration begins February 1, 2017.

- *Altar Flowers and Blessed Mother Flowers sign-up for 2017 is now available on our website. Simply go to our website and go to the registration form tab.
- * Visit the Carmelite Gift Shop for your Advent and Christmas needs. Holiday Hours & Open House Weekends with Bake Sale: Nov. 18-Dec. 24 Mon– Fri 9-4, Sat 10-5, Sun Noon-5. Pick up a flyer with a 10% off coupon!
- ***Please check the back counter in church for lost items. We have eyeglasses, sunglasses, and jewelry that have lost their home!!!









ABOUT LIVING EVERYDAY WITH PASSION & PURPOSE

Living Everyday with Passion & Purpose led by Matthew Kelly, invites us all to identify God's voice in our lives and the specific purpose for which we've been created. Matthew inspires attendees to apply the genius of Catholicism to every aspect of our lives including prayer & spirituality, work, dating & marriage, personal finances, health & well being, parenting, and community involvement. Matthew Kelly, and musician, Eliot Morris, prepare a unique message inspired by God and the teachings of the Church that promise to radiate in your life. Consider this: most people take more time to plan their annual vacation than they do to discover the voice of God and His plan for their life.

Join us for one of our Living Every Day with Passion & Purpose events. It's not your typical church event! It has been a life-changing event for tens of thousands of people.

Doors will open an hour before the event. We recommend you arrive an hour to half hour prior to the event starting to collect your event materials and find a seat. Every event attendee will receive an event bag which contains a book, CD, journal, pen, and several other great resources. Please note, meals are not served during the breaks. Feel free to pack a snack to enjoy during the breaks in public areas.

Madison Central Auditorium

1417 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, MS 39110
March 11, 2017
2:00-6:30 PM

Our parish Will soon have
tickets available for purchase!

Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday 8am - 12pm www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com (601) 992-9547

Pastor — Fr. Gerry Hurley — pastor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Administrator — Deacon John McGregor — jmcgregor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Faith Formation — Sarah O'Donnell — rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Finance/Bookkeeper — Renee Carpenter — finance@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Grounds/Maintenance — Kevin Smith — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Learning Center — Jennifer Henry, Director — stpaullearningcenter@gmail.com
Liturgy, Prayer Requests, Births, Baptisms — Monica Walton — liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
Music Ministry — Ed Thomas — est5271@gmail.com
Receptionist — Renee Borne — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
R.C.I.A. — Rodney Hipp — adult.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
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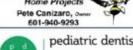
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