

Did You Know...



News and trivia from our parish and the Catholic Church

-- contributed by the Christ Child Church Women's Club --



Christ Child Catholic Church

Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the Challenges of Loving Service

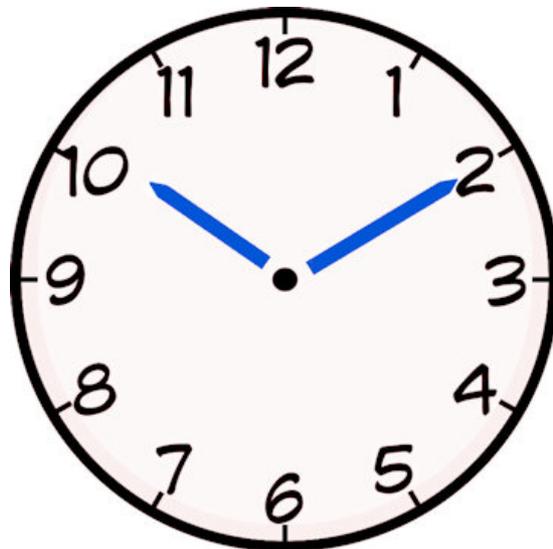
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Mass begins on Mountain Time

Since the dawn of time -- well, at least for many years now -- Mass at Christ Child Church has started on "Mountain Time". That is, Santa Cruz Mountains time (not Mountain Standard Time).

For as long as we old-timers can remember, Mass started five or ten minutes after 10AM. This is so customary, and so ingrained, that parishioners feel no shyness in informing visiting priests, or new pastors, of the "tradition". (Just ask Father Eugenio...)

Until recently, there was even a clock on the back wall of our church, a quiet reminder for the priest to correctly delay-time his service.



Being Hasty

Do we actually remember why we go to church? Always starting Mass late implies a minimalism. It's as if we barely have time to "meet our obligation as Catholics", and then we must rush about our oh-so-important business.

We go to church to receive the blessings and wisdom of Jesus. It's only fair that we evidence our love and respect by starting Mass on-time. And this is an important step -- but also *making time*, for our weekly meeting with Jesus, is the real goal.

It's important to remember that Jesus has waited all week to get together with us. It can be peaceful and rewarding to "get together" with Him a little before the celebration of the Mass commences.



After all, how would you feel if you invited a much-loved friend for a visit, prepared a special meal, and looked forward to a wonderful time of conversation and sharing -- only to have them pop in, eat, and leave. Wouldn't your heart call out,

"There is so much I wanted to talk about, please stay with me for a bit..."

Going forward, let's start our Mass on-time, and let's all listen to what Jesus has to say. A few minutes before Mass is a small price to be paid for such a gift.

--- Karin and Greg Illes