

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 2nd/December 3rd 2023: First Sunday of Advent



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Pastor

Rev. Jim W. Booth

SACRAMENTS and LITURGY

English Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

English Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Latin Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

English Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. on First Friday

First Saturday Latin Mass: 8:30 a.m. with confessions beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass: As Announced

Confessions: Saturday 3:30-3:55 p.m., Sunday 7:00-7:25, 8:30-8:55, and 10:15-10:40 a.m.

Baptisms: By Appointment

Marriage Arrangements must be made with the Pastor **at least 6 months before the date of the wedding. Talk to the Pastor before making any firm wedding plans. No destination weddings.**

COVID-19 RESPONSE, MASS & DEVOTIONS: We have an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30 a.m., to aid in social distancing, and continues on a provisional basis.

NOTE ON CONFESSIONS: If there is a significant line for confession, Fr Booth might say part of the formula of absolution while the penitent recites the act of contrition. The full formula of absolution is always said, but the first part might be said softly during the act of contrition. Thus, you might only hear “and I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

WELCOME to all of our visitors: We are glad you have attended Mass with us. If you wish to join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form at the Religious Goods Counter located in the vestibule of the front entrance.

IN MEMORIAM: For Lois Pruitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from December 3rd to December 9th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Jr. from December 10th until December 16th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday there will be a potluck brunch following the 9:00 a.m. Mass in lieu of the usual coffee and donuts.

DECEMBER 8th, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. We will have Masses in English at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th and on Friday, December 8th at 8:30 a.m. A High Latin Mass will be offered on December 8th at 10:45 a.m. and a Low Mass at 6:30 p.m.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local community. Please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached by Sunday, December 17th.

BLANKET DRIVE: We will be collecting new blankets and comforters for the Catholic Center of Concern all through Advent until Epiphany.

MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: We continue with the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities 2024 campaign. You also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$20,000.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, John Paul Stepnowski, Andrew Vickery, Hunter Limbaugh, Adam Sellers, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Michael Masny, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God’s call to the priesthood.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5261 and \$675 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 7-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Dec 2: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Matthew Simpson Family (by Mark P. Simpson)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)

Sun, Dec 3: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Adrian Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)

Mon, Dec 4: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Max Cook (by the Donellan Family)

Tues, Dec 5: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Charlie Rumore (by the Donellan Family)

Wed, Dec 6: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Juan & Denise Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)

Thur, Dec 7: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jonah Renda (by the Donellan Family)
6:00 p.m. † Jerry Bryant (by the Bryant Family)

Fri, Dec 8: 8:30 a.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Kay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
6:30 p.m. Pro Populo

Sat, Dec 9: 4:00 p.m. † Bob Bryant (by the Bryant Family)

Sun, Dec 10: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jeff Brown (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Alexandra Taylor, Henry Louis Koprucki, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Codie Smith Fikes, Fr Michael Adams, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Deacon Walter Henderson, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Beverly Scroggins, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Second Sunday of Advent	Isa 40:1-5,9-11, 2Pet 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent	Rom 15:4-13, Mt 11:2-10
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent	Isa 40:1-5,9-11, 2Pet 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent	Rom 15:4-13, Mt 11:2-10

Third Precept of the Church

The third precept of the Church is the requirement to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is not something that most people struggle with today, but that has not always been the case in the past. Five hundred years ago, most people received infrequently and beginning about four hundred years ago it was not uncommon for the faithful to receive Jesus in the Eucharist only a few times in their life: at first Communion, at their wedding, and perhaps nearing death as viaticum. How were people different back then? It was common for most people to be very aware of their unworthiness to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. This sense of being unworthy is not necessarily a bad thing. After all, we are receiving God, mere creatures partaking of our Creator. A healthy respect for what, nay, Who we receive is laudable. Beginning, however, in the middle of the 1600s and persisting into the twentieth century, there was an exaggerated sense of personal unworthiness in the minds of many, especially in France and later in Ireland. This precept probably dates to this time period where some would abstain from the Eucharist for decades because of their perceived unworthiness.

Truth be told, none of us is worthy to receive God into their souls. None of us. This why we confess our unworthiness at the beginning of Mass in the *Confiteor* and profess it again just before Communion. That we say ‘Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed’ admits our unworthiness and expresses a desire to be healed by worthy reception of the Lord. Indeed, one of the reasons the Lord gave us the sacrament of confession is that we would be clean of grave sin and not receive Holy Communion in a sacrilegious manner.

In 1905, Pope Pius X published a decree titled *Sacra Tridentina* promoting the frequent consumption of the Eucharist, recommending that those in a state of grace and well disposed to partake should receive on Sundays and even at daily Mass. This was a radical change in the practice of very many people. St Pius X noted that the Eucharist is our manna, as Jesus teaches in the 6th chapter of John’s Gospel: “*Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat*” (Jn 6:31). The manna sustained the Jews in the desert on a daily and prolonged basis, so same can be said of the Eucharist. With this in mind, Pope Pius X declared in *Sacra Tridentina*, among other things, that ‘Frequent and daily Communion, as a practice most earnestly desired by Christ our Lord and by the Catholic Church, should be open to all the faithful, of whatever rank and condition of life; so that no one who is in the state of grace, and who approaches the Holy Table with a right and devout intention can be prohibited therefrom. A right intention consists in this: that he who approaches the Holy Table should do so, not out of routine, or vain glory, or human respect, but that he wish to please God, to be more closely united with Him by charity, and to have recourse to this divine remedy for his weakness and defects... Since, however, the Sacraments of the New Law, though they produce their effect *ex opere operato* [by the work worked], nevertheless, produce a great effect in proportion as the dispositions of the recipient are better, therefore, one should take care that Holy Communion be preceded by careful preparation, and followed by an appropriate thanksgiving, according to each one’s strength, circumstances and duties.’ *Ex opere operato* means that the graces of the sacrament are present irrespective of the worthiness or unworthiness of the priest or the one who receives, yet St Pius notes that our disposition effects the Eucharist’s fruitfulness in the receiver.

After promoting frequent worthy reception of the Eucharist, Pope Pius X took a further step to change the order in which the sacraments were administered. The early Church baptized, confirmed, and gave first Communion all at once, even to infants, a practice maintained by Eastern Rite Catholics. Later, the western Church separated confirmation and Communion from baptism for children, introducing them to confession then confirmation at the age of reason while waiting for first Communion in the early teens. In 1910 Pope Pius changed the order of sacrament to baptism, confession, first Communion, and confirmation, which is the current order. He changed the age old order of the sacraments to emphasize the importance of frequent and worthy Communion. - Fr Booth