

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**December 23rd/December 24th 2023: Fourth Sunday of Advent (English)
Vigil of Christmas (Latin)**



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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 Jeremy Noblitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 24th until December 30th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert Bryant from December 31st until January 6th.

A NOTE ABOUT CHRISTMAS: The year, Christmas lands on a Monday, which means that our Christmas Eve Mass will be on Sunday. Since every Sunday and Christmas are holy days of obligation, everyone must attend a Mass that counts for Sunday and one that counts for Christmas. One cannot merely attend the Christmas Eve Mass and have it count for both Sunday and Christmas, however.

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

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2024, UPDATE: It is certain that the contribution envelopes for next year will be delayed. This is due to FedEx Ground refusing to deliver the envelopes to Blessed Sacrament. After having refused to delivered then four times, one box was returned to the sender and the other box was lost. If the envelopes have to be reprinted, it might be February before you get your envelopes.

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 reported last week was in error. It should have been \$5149 and \$570 for the Preservation Fund. The collection last weekend was \$5816 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$615. 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sun, Dec 24: 3:30 p.m. Carols
4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass in English
Mon, Dec 25: 7:30 a.m. Christmas Dawn Low Mass in Latin with hymns
9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass in English
10:45 a.m. Christmas Day High Mass in Latin

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

Sat, Dec 23: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Mike & Gina McGinn (by the Langs)
Sun, Dec 24: 7:30 a.m. † Don Newton (by Phil McCarrick)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Deacon Terry Rumore (by the Hahns)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Dr. Del Hahn (by the Hahns)
Mon, Dec 25: 7:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for JP Hahn (by Terry & Charlotte Rumore)
Tues, Dec 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ryan Gagnon (by the Gagnons)
Wed, Dec 27: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by the Gagnons)
Thur, Dec 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Hannah Gagnon (by the Gagnons)
Fri, Dec 29: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Brennan Martignoni (by the Gagnons)
Sat, Dec 30: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Rita Rumore (by Terry & Charlotte Rumore)
Sun, Dec 31: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Terry & Charlotte Rumore (by the Hahns)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Jeff Hahn (by the Hahns)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Alexandra Taylor, Chorbishop Richard Saad, 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 McMahan, 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. Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6,12-14, Col 3:12-21, Lk 2:22-40
7:30 a.m. Sunday within the Octave of Christmas	Gal 4:1-7, Lk 2:33-40
9:00 a.m. Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6,12-14, Col 3:12-21, Lk 2:22-40
10:45 a.m. Sunday within the Octave of Christmas	Gal 4:1-7, Lk 2:33-40

Jesus Changes Everything

Every family has its Christmas traditions. These family traditions grow, evolve, and change with time and circumstance. Marriage is one circumstance that forces Christmas traditions to change or evolve. One couple I know had very different traditions at Christmas when they were growing up. The wife's family put up the tree and all of the decorations on Thanksgiving Day. The husband's family tradition was to wait until Christmas Eve for any decorating whatsoever. The decorating would begin on the morning of Christmas Eve and would end in time for Midnight Mass, at whatever time Midnight Mass might have been that year. This couple alternated following her traditions one year and his the next. But the advent of children forced them to pick a tradition of their own. In this case the tree went up at Thanksgiving and decoration continued throughout Advent. This couple found that children change everything.

Nothing more true can be said for the Child of Joseph and Mary. The birth of the Messiah, true man and true God, changes *everything*. Not just for Joseph and Mary, but for all mankind. Everything we say and do has a different meaning because of the birth of Jesus Christ. Every human act has a profound significance now that Almighty God has entered the world as a helpless Baby. Such is the profound meaning of Christmas.

When a child enters the life of a husband and wife, their lives must change. Indeed, their world changes. They no longer just live for themselves, but they now dedicate their lives and their energies to the newborn child. They are no longer mildly interested in the world around them, but become profoundly concerned about the safety of the products they buy, the safety of their drinking water now matters, and they find themselves wondering how much life insurance is enough. If their lives are filled with sins and vices, they feel compelled (or they ought) to clean up their acts. Mom and dad now must watch what they say around their child. They become careful to do their best to be good role models for their child, because they instinctively know that they will teach by every action. The family home now becomes a classroom, an environment where mom and dad teach their child right from wrong, and the child teaches mom and dad lessons in unselfish sacrificial love.

For us it is not much different with the Baby Jesus. Like the parents of a young child, He should inspire us to act on our best behavior, not because we might teach Him bad behavior, but because He is the One that teaches us right from wrong. Nothing we can do will lead Him astray, but it is doing what He teaches that keeps us from departing the way of righteousness. It is not as if God has not been teaching His people from the very beginning, but it is in Jesus that He chooses to teach us face-to-face and by Personal example. He teaches us humility by putting aside His infinite power and choosing to enter the world He created as a helpless Infant. He teaches us patience by waiting 33 years before He begins the saving ministry that will teach us the true meaning of love, the love that sacrifices for others.

How has the birth of Jesus changed our lives? How might we act differently if we knew that the Infant Jesus was with us everywhere we go? We must ask these questions not only because Jesus is present everywhere as True God, but also because we take Him with us through the proclamation of the Word and through reception of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. When we receive the Eucharist, do we realize that we are bearing Jesus with us in a more profound way than if we were carrying the Baby Jesus everywhere we go? Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist changes our lives much the same way the Baby Jesus changed the lives of Joseph and Mary. And if we are parents, we must strive to ensure that our reception of Christ in the Eucharist changes how we parent our children.

Indeed, parents pass down traditions to their children, and what better tradition to pass down through the generations than the unchanging way of holiness, of faith, of hope, and of love that Jesus has shown us. The offspring of Abraham waited patiently for the promise to be fulfilled in the birth of Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary, passing down the expectant hunger for redemption for forty-two generations. Thus, we who have received Christ have a duty to do our best to pass down the unchanging Way Jesus has shown us to the generations that will follow us.

- Fr Booth