

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 7th/December 8th 2024: Second Sunday of Advent (English)
Immaculate Conception (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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For John & Matilda Katona, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 8th to December 14th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Joseph & Catherine Kelly from December 15th until December 21st.

REST IN PEACE: Carroll Dean Cambron Isbell, mother of Angel Leonard, passed away on November 27th and was laid to rest on November 30th. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: For the English Mass, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9th. For the Latin Mass, the Immaculate Conception is this Sunday. For the English Mass, Monday, remains a Holy Day of obligation. For the Latin Mass, the obligation for the Immaculate Conception is fulfilled by attending Mass this Sunday. There will be English Masses this Monday at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Church.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

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 22nd.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via catholiccharitiesbhm.org. The donations remain in the diocese, supporting charitable outreach and several diocesan offices. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$25,410, which is about 91% of our goal.

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, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6513 and \$430 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

PERPETUAL ADORATION: Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood is inviting people to come and adore our Lord in the Eucharist. They have had 24/7/365 Eucharistic Adoration for over 30 years. If you are interested in adoring Jesus in the Eucharist, please contact Bo Lovell at (205) 965-3041.

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 7:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Victoria Messina & Family (by the Hahn Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Virginia Elmer & Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Dec 8:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Jake Heiserman Family (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Sandra Lehmann (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Dec 9	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Kelly Family (by the Donellan Family)
	6:00 p.m.	Pro Populo
Tues, Dec 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Dec 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Adrian Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Dec 12:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Max Cook (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Dec 13:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Dec 14:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Juan & Denise Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Dec 15:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Paul DiChiara (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Judy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Grace Hill, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Phillip McCarty, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Debbie Booth, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, 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, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18
7:30 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28
9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18
10:45 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28

Eve, Immaculately Created. Mary, Immaculately Conceived

From the very beginning, the Church has continuously seen the Virgin Mary and Eve in an interesting light, acknowledging parallels and contrasts. Eve was the first woman, created innocent and sinless, taken from the side of Adam. She and Adam both had a special relationship with God. Like Adam, Eve was created immaculate by God. Prior to the Fall there was no alienation between Eve and God. We can say the much same thing for Mary: by a special act of God she was conceived innocent and sinless, totally preserved from the sin of Adam and Eve, and she has a special relationship with God. She is the mother of God. She is the mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. That is a special relationship with God, an utterly unique relationship. Being the mother of God required that she was preserved from all stain of sin so that her Son would also be unstained by sin.

But there are other things in common between Mary and Eve. Both are visited by angels. Mary is visited by Gabriel as we hear in Luke 1:26-38, and Eve was visited by Satan, a fallen angel, as related in the third chapter of Genesis. Satan visits Eve in the Garden of Eden and begins making promises to Eve. He says if you eat the forbidden fruit “*your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods*” (Gen 3:5). What a fantastic promise. To be like gods. It seems impossible, and indeed it is. Satan makes a promise, one that is tempting and is beyond Eve’s wildest dreams, but the devil can only promise, he has no power to deliver on his pledge to Eve.

Mary also hears a fantastic promise from God as conveyed to her by the archangel Gabriel. He does not promise that Mary will be like a god, but she will be the mother of God. A true promise, but one that nevertheless seems impossible. Yes, Satan’s promise was impossible because Satan had no power to deliver on the promise. It is also impossible for Mary, Joseph, any other human, or even Gabriel for Mary to become the very mother of God, but Gabriel assures Mary that “*nothing will be impossible for God*” (Lk 1:37).

Do we hear promises? Do people make promises to us? All of the time. Our parents make promises, our grandparents make promises, our brothers and sisters make promises, and our friends make promises. But we also hear complete strangers making promises. All we have to do is turn on TV, listen to radio, or surf the internet and we will find somebody that is making promises. Listen to the promises made in commercials. This product will change your life. This device will heat your house virtually for free. This toy will make you happy, or popular, or cool. These commercials make you feel like you are incomplete or that something is missing in your life unless you have what ever they are selling.

But can clothing, or makeup, or toys, or cell phones, or video games or cars make us happy, popular, cool, or complete? Not by a long shot. But when we fall for these promises, we are being like Eve. Eve believed Satan’s promise that if she just tasted the forbidden fruit, she would be something she was not. Just like the forbidden fruit, no physical possession or present can make us something that we are not.

But the difference between Mary and Eve is not just that Mary was given a true promise and that Eve got a false promise. The big difference is in how Mary and Eve reacted to the promises. In accepting Satan’s promise, Eve was being selfish, wanting to be something she was not, wanting to be like God. Satan’s pledge required Eve to be disobedient, it required her to sin against God, and it required her to bring Adam into her sin. For Mary, however, she did not accept God’s promise out of selfishness, but in a sense of humble selflessness. And Mary did not seek to become something she was not already, but she continued to be what she always was: humbly obedient.

So as we approach the birthday of our Savior, let us be mindful of the difference between Eve and Mary. Let us do our best to be like Mary, not wanting to be something that we are not and doing our best to be obedient. Let us try to be so humble and obedient as to say, Lord “*May it be done to me according to your word*” (Lk 1:38).

- Fr Booth