

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>/December 15<sup>th</sup> 2024: Third 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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

**IN MEMORIAM:** For Joseph & Catherine Kelly, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 15<sup>th</sup> to December 21<sup>st</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert, Julia, & Jerry Bryant from December 22<sup>nd</sup> until December 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

**RORATE MASS:** In lieu of usual Morning with Mary events, there will be a Rorate Mass, a Latin Mass in honor of Our Lady, on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 a.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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via [catholiccharitiesbhm.org](http://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 \$25,510, 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.

**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.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$7713 and \$560 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.

## **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Tues, Dec 24:	3:30 p.m.	Carols
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Vigil Mass in English
Wed, 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 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)
Mon, Dec 16	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Virginia Elmer (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Dec 17:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Baumbach Family (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Dec 18:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Shane & Sophie Henderson (by the Duvall Family)
Thur, Dec 19:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Susan Muck (by Monica Duvall)
Fri, Dec 20:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Michael Renna (by Monica Duvall)
Sat, Dec 21:	6:00 a.m.	† Clement Muck, Jr. (by the Duvall Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Deacon Walter Henderson (by Lynn Bryant)
Sun, Dec 22:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Steve & Beth Miller Family (by Alan & Pam Olson)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Jacqueline McAleer (by the Charles Rumore 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. Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10, Lk 1:39-45
7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent	1Cor 4:1-5, Lk 3:1-6
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10, Lk 1:39-45
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent	1Cor 4:1-5, Lk 3:1-6

## *Rejoice!*

How much different would it be if we lived in the Hundred Acre Wood, if we all lived in the world of Winnie the Pooh where the biggest dangers come from Heffalumps, Woozles, and Jagulars. And the wonderful thing about Heffalumps, Woozles, and Jagulars is that they are totally imaginary. Sadly, Disney missed the point that A.A. Milne wanted to make. Disney made Heffalumps and Woozles real. But even in a world where the scary and threatening things are all imaginary, the Hundred Acre Wood still has the perpetually pessimistic Eeyore and the easily frightened and worried Piglet. In such a world shouldn't everybody be more like the hopelessly optimistic and lighthearted Tigger and the always-cheerful Roo? Or at least wouldn't everybody be more like the basically happy and complacent Pooh?

Even in the imaginary world of the Hundred Acre Wood we still see the extremes of Tigger at one end of the spectrum and Eeyore at the other. In the real world, psychologists would want to medicate the Eeyores and the Tiggers around us to make them more normal, whatever that might mean. In the real world, most of us are probably more like Piglet or Rabbit than anyone else, but we might really want to be more like Pooh whose only true worry is running out of honey.

While many people identify with Eeyore in seemingly healthy way, I don't think many people identify with Tigger. Part of this is because we might tend to be sympathetic to the Eeyores of the world but the Tiggers around us get on our nerves, they come across to us as more obnoxious than endearing. Another part of it is that we know in our hearts that the effervescent joy that Tigger exudes could not be sustained in real life. The joys that we taste tend to be few and far between. The joys that we encounter are usually fleeting. If the joyful feeling does not fade all by itself, something bad will happen sooner than later to rob us of that joy.

So when St Paul calls us to "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!*" we might respond with a dose of skepticism and cynicism. Rejoicing is one thing, but rejoicing always just does not happen in this world, hardly even in the Hundred Acre Wood. In fact, it can seem that Paul is calling us to do the impossible. Yet it really isn't impossible. Rejoicing always is a true possibility for three reasons. First of all, the joy that St Paul talks about is much less an emotion than a choice. Indeed, it is much like love, which is also a choice. Just as we are called to love our enemies – which is impossible to do emotionally – we are called to rejoice always even in the midst of tragedy. This is impossible emotionally, but we can still choose to be joyful, we can still choose to have an attitude of joy. In other words, we might feel like Eeyore at times, but we need not become Eeyore.

Secondly, St Paul does not call us to rejoice based on how well or poorly our circumstances in life might be. No, our joy is not in this world but in the Lord. He could not be more clear or specific: "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" Jesus is the source of our joy and He cannot be taken away from us. No tragedy, no disease, no disaster, no suffering, no pain, no sorrow, indeed nothing in this world can vanquish Jesus. He has conquered the world, and "*we conquer overwhelmingly through [Jesus] who loves us*" (Rom 8:36). Jesus' victory over sin and death must be the reason for our joy.

Thirdly, our human nature makes it difficult for us to rejoice always. Thus, God comes to our help. We read in Paul's letter to the Galatians that "*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law*" (Gal 5:22-23). None of these fruits is an emotion; they are all choices, they are all virtues.

Thus, joy is a virtue and not a fleeting emotion, which means that we must work at it just as we must work at loving. We are called to a supernatural joy, a joy that does not come from the world nor can the world take it from us against our will. The joy we are to have comes from Jesus and it is sustained in us through the Holy Spirit. And if our joy comes from Jesus through the Holy Spirit then no war, no disease, no tragedy, no lion, no tiger, no bear, no Heffalump, no Woozle, and no Jagular can rob us of the joy we are called to have in the Lord Jesus.

- Fr Booth