

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**December 28th/December 29th 2024: Holy Family (English)
Sunday in the Octave of Christmas (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
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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 Jeremy Noblitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 29th to January 4th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert & Jerry Bryant from January 5th until January 11th.

REST IN PEACE: Lawrence Brandley, Brother of Helen Brandley, passed away on December 21st. His funeral will be at St Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Titusville on January 3rd. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

JANUARY 1st: Wednesday, January 1st is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God (English) and the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (Latin), is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be an English Mass at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31st, a Latin Low Mass at 7:30 a.m., an English Mass at 9:00 a.m. and a Latin High Mass at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, January 1st.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on January 3rd at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on January 4th. Altar server training and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2025: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$25,635, which is about 92% 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 \$3860 and \$80 was given for the Preservation Fund. The Christmas Collection was \$13,533 and \$430 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 28:	4:00 p.m.	† Tom Davis (by Betty Mason)
Sun, Dec 29:	7:30 a.m.	† Joseph & Catherine Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Debra Yaeger (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)
Mon, Dec 30	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Tyler Family (by the Donellans)
Tues, Dec 31:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Vanessa Colicchio (by the Donellans)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Maddie Duvall (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Jan 1:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Simon Duryea (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Joseph Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Jan 2:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Kaitlyn Ferino (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Jan 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special intention for Julia Ayers (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Jan 4:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Leah Shields (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Katie Paffumi (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Jan 5:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Dominic Paffumi (by the Donellans)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Souls in Purgatory

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, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Beverly 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.	Epiphany	Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12
7:30 a.m.	Holy Name of Jesus	Acts 4:8-12, Lk 2:21
9:00 a.m.	Epiphany	Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12
10:45 a.m.	Holy Name of Jesus	Acts 4:8-12, Lk 2:21

Family

“Honor your father and your mother... You shall not commit adultery... You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.” The 4th, the 6th, and the 9th Commandments all directly relate to protecting the family. They tell us that it is important how children relate to their parents, how husbands and wives relate to one another and to others in society. That there are three commandments that deal with protecting the family and three that pertain to our relationship with God tells us how important the family is in the eyes of God. *Honor your father and your mother* gets higher priority in the Ten Commandments than the protection of innocent human life. Why?

The reason is that in the order of nature set forth by God, human life has its origins in God and in the human family. We tend to place human life as a higher value than the family primarily because we see the individual as the basic building block of society. We think in terms of protecting individual rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. There is nothing truly wrong with this approach as long as the emphasis on the individual does not take precedence over the family. We might want to ask ourselves this question: Will the individual better be able to pursue life, liberty, and happiness with or without a strong family?

This is one reason why the Church sees the family as the basic building block of society. This takes nothing away from the individual at all. It merely specifies that the individual is meant to live in a community of some sort, and the basic element of that community is the family. The individual human being has dignity because he is made in the image and likeness of God. The family has dignity because it is made up of individuals, but also because the family is made in the image and likeness of the Trinity. The Lord has revealed about Himself that God is love, and He has also revealed the Trinity, which is a community of Persons loving. “A community of persons loving”: is this not a definition of what a family should be?

The Holy Family reflects this reality of a community of persons loving. The chaste, holy, righteous, and just Joseph. The grace-filled, holy, sinless, Virgin Mary. And of course the Son of God Himself. How could this family not be holy? Yet we see that they are a family, not just an assembly of individuals who happen to be related by blood and marriage.

Jesus, as the true Son of Mary and the foster-Son of Joseph kept the 4th Commandment, honoring them even though He is God Incarnate. Humanly speaking, this must have posed challenges at times. Does Joseph know that he is asking God to take out the trash? But perhaps more amazing to us is that God the Son complies with His earthly father's command. Jesus, as true God, is obedient to the merely human Joseph and Mary, and not only obedient: He was also subject to His earthly parents. Jesus is both obedient and subject to human authority without any loss of His divine dignity. With our American focus on personal liberty, we often relate being obedient and subject to other's authority as an affront to our human dignity. But Jesus' life in the Holy Family teaches us otherwise. Jesus is subordinate to the authority of Joseph and Mary not out of fear or domination, but because of a proper understanding of what it means to be in authority.

We have come to associate being in authority as wielding power over others. This is not the Christian view of authority. When James and John asked for positions of power in the Kingdom, Jesus rebuked them saying *“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many”* (Mt 20:25-28). Jesus teaches us that authority is properly exercised as service of others, service empowered and motivated by love.

- Fr Booth