

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

January 25<sup>th</sup>/January 26<sup>th</sup> 2025: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
Third Sunday After Epiphany (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 Doris Klein, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from January 26<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Sr. from February 2<sup>nd</sup> until February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on February 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be mailed out early next week.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** We tentatively scheduled our First Communion on March 30<sup>th</sup>, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be announced.

**PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT:** The Office of Vocations is hosting a Priesthood Discernment Weekend at Casa Maria Retreat Center from February 7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>. Father Andrew Gutierrez from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans will lead this weekend of prayer, talks, and fellowship for men discerning a call to priesthood. Father Wyman Vintson, Vicar for Vocations, will be present and available to answer questions about discernment, the application process, and seminary life. This weekend experience is for men ages 18-35. The event is free, but registration is required at <https://bhmdiocese.org/discernment-weekend>

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via [catholiccharitiesbhm.org](http://catholiccharitiesbhm.org). Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$28,035 and thus exceeding 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 \$5041, \$80 was given for the Preservation Fund, and the collection for repairing the Franciscan's Mission house in Brazil was \$4844. 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)

Sun, Jan 26:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Nicholas Tate (by the Rumore Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Nathan Tate (by the Rumore Family)
Mon, Jan 27	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Genevieve Tate (by the Rumore Family)
Tues, Jan 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Emmett Robert Conners (by Kevin Kelly)
Wed, Jan 29:	*8:30 a.m.	† Dan Flavin (by the Rumore Family)
Thur, Jan 30:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention Nathan & Sophia Gagnon (by John-Anthony and Mary Jimenez)
Fri, Jan 31:	*8:30 a.m.	† Thellis Williamson (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Feb 1:	8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
	4:00 p.m.	† Normand Conrad Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Feb 2:	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 Sterling & Jill Caudle (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, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, 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.	Presentation of the Lord	Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2:14-18, Lk 2:22-40
7:30 a.m.	Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mal 3:1-4, Lk 2:22-32
9:00 a.m.	Presentation of the Lord	Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2:14-18, Lk 2:22-40
10:45 a.m.	Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mal 3:1-4, Lk 2:22-32

## *Gospel Truth*

When Pope John the XXIII called for Vatican II, both the Church and the world were utterly caught off guard. So why call for a council? A partial answer comes from Pope John's opening address to the bishops: 'In these days, which mark the beginning of this Second Vatican Council, it is more obvious than ever before that the Lord's truth is indeed eternal. Human ideologies change. Successive generations give rise to varying errors, and these often vanish as quickly as they came, like mist before the sun. The Church has always opposed these errors, and often condemned them with the utmost severity.'

The Pope alluded to errors but did not to name them. It has come to light that one of those unnamed errors was communism. It had been condemned many times before, but Pope John had come to realize that mere condemnation was insufficient. We have to understand that communism is not just a form of government but an ideology that is in direct opposition to the faith. Communism denies all things spiritual: thus there is no God, no afterlife, no human soul, and no sin. God is replaced by the government, life is here and now only, man is just another animal not much different than a cow or a pig, and the only sin is a crime against the state, not an offense against God or one's neighbor.

Likewise, communism is not just a different and erroneous way of looking at the world. It does not just deny the eternal truths of the faith. No, communism seeks to subjugate the entirety of mankind. Evidence of this is seen in the spread of communism: in 1917 there was only one communist country. By 1950, that number had risen to 16, by 1960 it rose to 21, and by 1970 it had risen to 33 nations. By the time Vatican II ended, almost 40% of mankind was under the communist thumb. One of the reasons communism was spreading, especially where there was widespread poverty, was that human suffering continued despite centuries of Christianity. The communists could point to Jesus' own words: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord*" (Lk 4:18-19). The existence of poverty and human suffering were used by the communists to discredit the faith and to push their own form of false utopia.

They proclaimed their own glad tidings to the poor, they offered their own form of liberty to those held captive, they had their own way of making the oppressed free, and they could say that they were proclaiming a time acceptable to men but not the Lord. Had they thought people would be gullible enough to believe it, they would have also promised to restore sight to the blind. In other words, Jesus and His Church were proclaiming happiness and abundance in the world to come, while the communists were promising happiness and prosperity in this world.

That is why communism was not merely condemned by the Church, but confronted. All we have to do is look at what Pope John Paul II was able to accomplish in Poland when he returned for the first time as Pope. The communists did not feel threatened by a man who had no tanks, no jet fighters, no aircraft carriers, and no nuclear weapons. Little did they know that he had something even more powerful than the bomb. He had the truth. And that truth resonated in the hearts of the people of Poland. Then it resonated in the hearts of the East Germans, and then in the hearts of peoples in captivity, peoples under oppression, peoples impoverished by inhuman regimes, and peoples blinded by lies. Since John Paul visited Poland in 1979, communism has been in retreat throughout the world.

That the truth is so powerful is no surprise. The Truth, His Truth, has the power to spiritually enrich the poorest man, to liberate those held in captivity, to enlighten the spiritually blind, and to bring interior freedom to those most oppressed. We each have to ask ourselves what part the truth plays in our lives. Is the truth something we abuse? Is it something that is sometimes useful but at other times inconvenient? Is the truth something we cherish? Indeed, if we live the truth, or as St Paul says, if we live the truth in love (Eph 4:15), we will grow more and more like Christ. And if we grow more like Jesus, our years and our own lives will be acceptable to the Lord.

-Fr Booth