

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 6th/December 7th: Second 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.

NOTICE ON CHECKS: Please make out all checks to Blessed Sacrament or Blessed Sacrament Church.

IN MEMORIAM: For John & Matilda Katona, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 7th until December 13th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Jr. from December 14th until December 20th.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local community. If you take a tag from the Angel Tree, please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached on the outside by Sunday, December 21st.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Instead of coffee and donuts there will be a potluck brunch following the 9:00 Mass.

DECEMBER 8th, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Monday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. On Monday, December 8th we will have Mass in English at 8:30 a.m., High Latin Mass will be offered at 10:45 a.m., and a Low Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m. A free spaghetti lunch will be provided after the 10:45 Mass.

MORNING WITH MARY: Due to the proximity of Christmas, there will be no Morning With Mary devotions or Mass on Saturday, December 20th.

THIRD SUNDAY: December 21st is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers following the 10:45 a.m. Mass but we will not have a potluck lunch.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Pledge Card in the mail, if not you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of December 5th, we have \$21,575 pledged.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$3519 and \$50 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There remains an 8½ month backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. Period. No exceptions.

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

Sat, Dec 6:	6:00 a.m.	Special intention for the Hill Family (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Jeff & Catherine Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Dec 7:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Johnny Robert Maziarz (by Brandon Maziarz)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Andrew & Abby Rumore (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)
Mon, Dec 8	8:30 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Tripp Williams (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
	6:30 p.m.	† Kevin Penney (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Tues, Dec 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for John Paul Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Dec 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Jorgensen (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Dec 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Stephanie Labauve (by the Juneau Family)
Fri, Dec 12:	*8:30 a.m.	† Phillip McCarty (by Alan & Pam Olson)
Sat, Dec 13:	4:00 p.m.	† Nikki Mitchell (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Dec 14:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Paula Pinter (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Julie Sabri (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Daniel Flemming, Fr Timothy Gahan, George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, 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, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, 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	Isa 35:1-6,10, James 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11
7:30 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28
9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Isa 35:1-6,10, James 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11
10:45 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28

Cleaning & Decorating for the Lord

Back in the late 1960's and early 1970's, before the energy crisis and high inflation struck, back when energy was cheap, almost every house in my neighborhood would have their Christmas lights up just about this time of year. They were the old type of light, the big bulbs that were bright, colorful, and hot. It was fun to come home from football practice or some other evening activity to see the entire neighborhood swathed in brilliant color. It really set a festive mood. Most homes had lights strung along the roofline and others also had Christmas lights in their trees and bushes. As it is today, some people really put a lot of effort into decorating their homes in preparation for Christmas. They have to break out the ladders, untangle the strings of bulbs, and often they would spend hours trying to find the burned-out bulbs. Of course once Christmas came and went, the decorations were taken down and the strings of bulbs were carefully packed up in the hopes that they would not be hopelessly tangled like they were this year, last year, and the year before.

All of the effort to haul the decorations out of the attic, to untangle the strings of bulbs, to put the lights up, to find the burned out bulbs, and to undo all of it after Christmas drove some people to leave their lights up year round. Next year all they would have to do is plug them in and maybe find the burned out bulbs. No doubt this was a whole lot easier, but it seemed to my young mind a betrayal of the whole Christmas idea. The process of decoration was part of the preparation for Christmas and to skip that process seemed to me to be totally contrary to the whole Christmas Spirit. If you take a shortcut or skip most of the process, it just seems to cheapen the whole thing.

Which brings us to the question of why we clean and decorate for Christmas. It sets the mood, makes things festive, beautifies, and creates an atmosphere of anticipation. It tells us something important is happening. It prepares us spiritually and emotionally for the celebration of Christmas. In a certain way, we can see the cleaning and decorating of our homes as a method of taking the mission of John the Baptist to heart. Cleaning and decorating is a means of preparing the way of the Lord, that we might grow in anticipation and readiness to celebrate Jesus' birth and for His return at the end of time.

So, what are we doing to decorate and cleanse our souls so as to prepare the way of the Lord? What we do to our homes should be a reflection of what we are doing with ourselves. As believers it would be a shame for our homes to be prepared and decorated but we leave ourselves spiritually untouched. Yet, if you think about it, those who left their Christmas lights up year round might have a good idea in some respects. If they fail to take them down out of laziness that is one thing, but what if they keep them up so as to be continuously prepared for an unexpected arrival of Jesus?

Shouldn't we remain prepared for Jesus, shouldn't we continue preparing the way for the Lord in our own lives the whole year and not just for a few weeks? After all, did Jesus ever say He was going to return or that we would die only during the seasons of Advent and Lent? No, He was emphatic that we would not know the time or the season for His return in glory. The same applies for our own deaths, we generally do not know when it will happen.

So unlike the people who put their lights up and take them down after Christmas, we need to remain prepared and decorated throughout the year. Our faith should not be stowed away in the attic. Unlike those who leave them up but just unplug their Christmas lights until next year, we need to keep preparing the way for Jesus in our hearts, minds, and lives, being better prepared this year than last year. In other words, the seasons of Advent and Lent are not just periods of preparation, they are a reminder that we need to build upon the preparation that went on last year, the year before, and the year before that. We need to be replacing the burned out bulbs in our spiritual lives, to keep our spiritual strings of lights untangled, and to take our spiritual preparation further and further throughout our lives. Indeed, when it comes to preparing the way of the Lord, can we ever be prepared enough? Can we ever be over-prepared? So let us take John the Baptist as an example. He prepared the way of Jesus from within his mother's womb until the day he died. Shouldn't we do the same?

- Fr Booth