

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

*January 27<sup>th</sup>/January 28<sup>th</sup> 2024: Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
Septuagesima Sunday (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. If you wish to join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form at the Religious Goods Counter located in the vestibule of the front entrance.

**IN MEMORIAM:** For Edward Von Hagel, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 28<sup>th</sup> until February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Sr. from February 4<sup>th</sup> until February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** We will have our First Friday English Mass on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Candles will be blessed prior to the Latin Mass.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Altar server training and Martha & 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.

**NATIVITY INDULGENCE:** We will leave our nativity scene in place until February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the sake of obtaining a plenary indulgence in honor of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Francis introducing the nativity scene in the year 1224. Copies of the steps necessary to obtain the indulgence can be found at the back of the church.

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

**CONFIRMATION:** We are planning on having Confirmation later this year at a date that is to be determined. The bishop has offered to confirm using the new rite in Latin followed by a High Latin Mass where he will sit in choir.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2024:** Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

**MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS** for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

**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, and Dominic Rumore.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last weekend was \$5769 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$8115. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is about a 6-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Jan 27:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Dr. Michael Irwin (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Jan 28:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Danny Rohling (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charles & Allison Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Jan 29:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Cora Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Tues, Jan 30:	*8:30 a.m.	† Mary Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Jan 31:	*8:30 a.m.	† Eddie Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Feb 1:	*8:30 a.m.	† Frederic Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Feb 2:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Teichmiller Family (by the Donellan Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for the McIntyre Family (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Feb 3:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Martire Family (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Javier & Anisa Sanchez (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Feb 4:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jacob & Elisa Lewinski (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Mike & Wendy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Diane Norton, William Munch, Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Deacon Walter Henderson, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Bill Dinan, 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.	Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Job 7:1-4,6-7, 1Cor 9:16-19,22-23, Mk 1:29-39
7:30 a.m.	Sexagesima Sunday	2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15
9:00 a.m.	Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Job 7:1-4,6-7, 1Cor 9:16-19,22-23, Mk 1:29-39
10:45 a.m.	Sexagesima Sunday	2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15

## *Nothing in Particular*

It is no secret that Americans are becoming less religious over time. There has always been a number of agnostics (people who are not sure God exists or would say that God's existence is unknowable) and atheists (people definitely assert that God does not and could not possibly exist) in our society. There was a time when agnostics and atheists would simply keep their doubts and denials to themselves, largely because their position was unpopular or to avoid being evangelized by believers. In other countries in the past, agnostics and atheists had to feign faith in God lest they run afoul of the law. America has enjoyed religious freedom from our foundation over 230 years ago and has been a refuge for those seeking to practice their religion freely since colonial times. That freedom extends to the lack of religion as well, so agnostics and atheists are legally free to be unbelieving.

This does not mean that there have been no disputes or friction between people of faith and those who doubt or deny the existence of God. Public discourse and public schools have been battle grounds especially since the Scopes 'Monkey Trial' of 1925. In the minds of many it has become a matter of faith versus science as if science definitively disproves God's existence or that faith and science cannot be reconciled. This environment has steadily eroded faith in God. It has been reported in one recent poll that those with no religious affiliation now represent the largest 'religious' demographic, which is a misrepresentation of the poll results. This 2023 poll indicated that 28% of Americans identified 'None' as their religion, 40% reported as protestant, and 20% as responded as Catholic. Compared to specific denominations, it is accurate that the so-called 'Nones' outnumber the Catholics and the various protestant denominations taken individually, but it is not accurate to say that they outnumber protestants or Christians as an aggregate. Another poll, taken in 2022, showed that 45% of Americans are protestant, 23% are Catholic, and 20% are 'Nones.' The 2022 poll seems more accurate, but the growth of those religiously identifying as 'None' is indisputable.

According to the 2023 poll, the 'Nones' can be broken down into three groups: agnostics (20%), atheists (17%), and 'Nothing in particular' (63%). If the 2023 polling data is accurate, this means that only 5.6% of Americans are agnostic, 4.8% are atheist, and 17.6% are 'Nothing in particular.' 'Nothing in particular' encompasses any number of beliefs or lack thereof. Only 32% of the 'Nothing in particulars' do not believe in God, the rest have questions or doubts about His existence. In many respects, those who believe in God can't be bothered to practice a faith, have left their denomination because of a distrust or dislike of organized religion, and/or they reject specific doctrines. In other words, a large number of the 'Nones' have been driven away or have fallen away. They are not hardcore atheists or agnostics, and therefore can possibly be reached.

In any case, the rise in people profoundly doubting, outright rejecting, and estranged from the practice of the faith will have growing consequences in our culture. An obvious impact will be in terms of morality. If God is taken out of consideration, if we ignore what He has written on our hearts (the natural law) and what He has revealed down to us in the Scriptures and Sacred Tradition, how far will people go astray morally? Pagan cultures of the past and anti-religious regimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century give us a clue. The brutality of the Vikings, the Picts, the Mongols, and the Aztecs boggles the modern mind. Much the same can be said of the Nazis, the Soviets, the East Germans, and the communist Chinese. Without a moral compass, mankind is capable of great evils. And we can do great evil quite rationally. While science is rational it is also amoral, lacking any concept of right and wrong, how long will it be before we lose our sense of the sanctity of human life? From a scientific perspective, killing Fred or Wilma simply ends biochemical processes that were self-aware and identified as Fred or Wilma.

Another impact of losing our connection with God is losing connection with who we are. God made us in His image and we really ought to respect this reality. Reality itself easily becomes subjective apart from God. With no proper identity and objective reality, despair and hopelessness become massive issues. What we see today clearly bears this out.

- Fr Booth