

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**December 20<sup>th</sup>/December 21<sup>st</sup>: Fourth 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 Catherine & Joseph Kelly, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 21<sup>st</sup> to December 27<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Catherine & Joseph Kelly from December 28<sup>th</sup> until January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADVENT ANGEL TREE:** Please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached on the outside by this Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**THIRD SUNDAY:** This 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.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2026:** Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** First Communion is scheduled for Laetare Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

**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 19<sup>th</sup>, we have \$21,575 pledged.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$7611 and \$240 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is large backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. No exceptions. The Mass Intentions for this week date from March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Wed, Dec 24: 3:30 p.m. Carols  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass in English  
Thur, 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 20: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Adrienne Price (by the Donellans)  
Sun, Dec 21: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Jonathan & Nicole Zaucha (by the Donellans)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Jeremy DiPiazza (by the Donellans)  
Mon, Dec 22 \*8:30 a.m. Special intention for Michele DiPiazza (by the Donellans)  
Tues, Dec 23: \*8:30 a.m. Special intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellans)  
Wed, Dec 24: \*8:30 a.m. Special intention for J.A. & Mary Jimenez (by the Donellans)  
4:00 p.m. † Phillip McCarty (by the Donellans)  
Thur, Dec 25: 7:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. † Phillip McCarty (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)  
Fri, Dec 26: \*8:30 a.m. Special intention for Ryan Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
Sat, Dec 27: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
Sun, Dec 28: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Stephanie Burke (by the Hahn Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Hannah Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)

**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, 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. Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6,12-14, Col 3:12-21, Mt 2:13-15,19-23
7:30 a.m. Sunday in the Octave of Christmas	Gal 4:1-7, Lk 2:33-40
9:00 a.m. Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6,12-14, Col 3:12-21, Mt 2:13-15,19-23
10:45 a.m. Sunday in the Octave of Christmas	Gal 4:1-7, Lk 2:33-40

## *Anticipation*

In the current culture, this time of year represents many things. Certainly, the days are getting shorter while the weather becomes colder. Many children, even in the South, look forward to the possibility of having measurable snowfall that cold temperatures make possible. It seems that snowmen only one foot tall and lasting only one day are better than no snowmen at all. With the late-fall and early-winter weather comes the shopping season retailers count on. Maybe it is still true, but Black Friday was once understood neither in terms of rude and aggressive shoppers nor a display of blatant materialism but in terms of retail accounting. Leading up to late November, most retail businesses are financially in the red, that is losing money, but the onset of Christmas shopping puts those retailers into the black, meaning that they begin to show a profit for the year as a result of the buying of presents.

It would be impossible to ignore the anticipation that many have regarding the celebration of Christmas. For some, it is all about giving and receiving presents. At some point we find giving better than receiving. For others, it is the festivity, such as decorations, parties, caroling, ugly sweaters, Christmas cookies, parades, seasonal movies, matching pajamas, or watching NORAD track the annual violation of our sovereign airspace (is there no stealth technology at the North Pole?). Then there is the good behavior inducing elves on shelves. At one time the elves' employer was thought to be omniscient – supposedly knowing when we were awake, asleep, crying, pouting, and other things that only God could possibly know – but we now know that the elves represent a network of informants and snitches. Putting aside the Orwellian undertone of such shelved elves, it does suggest a truer aspect of this season than the other secular claptrap this time of year brings forth, namely reforming our ways. We are called to behave better not for the sake of pleasing a fat man dressed in red, under the surveillance of his elven minions, or for a better haul of presents under the tree. No, acting better is a means, an authentic means, of anticipating the coming of Jesus.

We have Advent calendars and Advent wreathes to track the arrival of Jesus, a tracking more meaningful than what NORAD does on Christmas Eve. Young and old are more than aware of when Christmas will happen, marking the celebration of the arrival of the Messiah, the Savior of mankind, the King of kings as a Baby born among various animals and laid in a manger. As people of faith, we know the true reason for the season, the divine King who was unwanted at His birth, and He finds a better welcome today than he got 2000 years ago. Sadly, it is not a universal and wholehearted welcome offered today nor is the extent and depth of the welcome He receives befitting the birth of the divine Messiah. Faith has been waning for some time, yet many today marvel at the indifference king Herod and the priests showed at the news of the Messiah's birth. No doubt the Wisemen announcing the birth of the King of the Jews were stunned by the unenthusiastic response their great news brought to the king, the priests, and the people of Jerusalem. Yet there never has been a time when the birth of Jesus has brought forth a widespread suitable human response. There always has been and there always will be people who just can't be bothered with God coming into this world and dwelling among us.

Given that Advent marks the time for Jesus' first coming as a Babe in a manger as well as His return as the divine Judge of mankind at the end of time, we should also not be surprised that a world that cannot be bothered to take His first arrival seriously will be even less enthused by His second coming. Which leads to an important question, namely, are Jesus' disciples looking forward to His return even slightly as much as celebrating His birth? To put it another way, are we happy to acknowledge His birth but do we dread His return? Yes, the worldly have every reason to dread the end of the world given that they have placed their faith, hope, and love in the very world that will one day pass away. The worldly likewise have every reason to dread the end of their participation in this world. We, however, ought to see the end – our end and the world's end – much the way we see Jesus' birth. After all, how can we welcome the arrival of Jesus wholeheartedly while dread our return to Him or His return to us?

- Fr Booth