

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*December 27th/December 28th: 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.

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 28th to January 3rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert & Jerry Bryant from January 4th until January 10th.

JANUARY 1st: Thursday, 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 Wednesday, 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 Thursday, January 1st.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on January 2nd 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 3rd. Altar server training 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 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 15th 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 26th, we have \$22,775 pledged.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$14,864 and \$5120 was given for the Preservation Fund. The collection for Christmas was \$9461 and \$410 was donated to 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 April 6th.

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

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| 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 int. for Hannah Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon) |
| Mon, Dec 29 | *8:30 a.m. | Special intention for Brennan Martignoni (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon) |
| Tues, Dec30: | *8:30 a.m. | Special intention for Alexander Arroyo (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon) |
| Wed, Dec 31: | *8:30 a.m. | Special int. for James Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon) |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Special intention for Paula Pinter (by Susan Tyler) |
| Thur, Jan 1: | 7:30 a.m. | Special Intention for Juliette Gagnon (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon) |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Pro Populo |
| | 10:45 a.m. | † Glenn Uzzel (by Alan & Pam Olson) |
| Fri, Jan 2: | *8:30 a.m. | Special int for Cameron Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon) |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Special intention for Kate McClune (by the Hahns) |
| Sat, Jan 3: | 8:30 a.m. | Special int. for Thomas Rumore (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon) |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Special intention for Deacon Lee Robinson (by the Hahns) |
| Sun, Jan 4: | 7:30 a.m. | Special intention for Anthony Sabri (by the Hahns) |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Pro Populo |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Special intention for Stephen Rumore (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

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|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 |

God Bless Us, Every One

One of the most famous and enduring Christmas stories is Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This novel has greatly influenced the way Christmas is viewed and has given us the phrase 'Merry Christmas' and the concept of the Christmas Spirit. It has also given us a model for the transforming power of this great feast. At the time, the British were losing their Christmas traditions under the dehumanizing effects of the industrial revolution. The industrialization of society added to the hard life most people already knew a sense of utilitarian hopelessness. Human labor became a commodity, and once human labor is a commodity it leads to man being treated as livestock. In a world where productivity is how a man is valued, someone like Tiny Tim is useless. Being crippled and weak, he will never be productive. Society has no place for him and there is no future for the likes of Tiny Tim. He is like an ox that can't plow, a hen that can't lay eggs, a horse that can't pull a cart.

Scrooge, on the other hand, is at the top of the heap. He is rich and can afford all that he wants. As far as the world is concerned, of all of the characters in *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge should be the most happy and hopeful while it is Tiny Tim who should be sad, dejected, hopeless, and miserable. Just the opposite is true. It is Tiny Tim who is the embodiment of hope and Scrooge who lives a pitiful meaningless life. Scrooge is not a wretched character because he is rich or because he owns his own business. He is the most pitiful character because he is a miser, making money his god. He has great wealth but he eats gruel because he is afraid to lose his money. He is stingy because spending money means parting with what he loves most. But all of that money does not bring him joy, freedom, comfort, or any of the things the human heart longs for. As a miser, Scrooge serves his money instead of letting his money serve him. He is a miserable figure in the most literal sense of the word because miser is the very root of the word miserable.

Scrooge overcomes his misery by putting aside his miserly ways. The way Hollywood sets the story, it is in giving that one becomes happy and finds meaning in life. Indeed, the way *A Christmas Carol* is almost always performed, it comes across as an endorsement for the benefits of philanthropy. Yes, being generous is rewarding and it can certainly transform one's life. But is that the only message Charles Dickens was trying to send? Is it all about doing away with greed, miserliness, and ill will towards our fellow man? Is it simply a matter of it being better to give than to receive? If we look at Scrooge alone, this might be the message of *A Christmas Carol*. But what about Tiny Tim? How is it that he is happy and hopeful despite having nothing? How is it that he is happy and hopeful well before Scrooge has a change of heart and provides for his needs? Hollywood does not address these questions and really does not want to go there at all. This is not a place Hollywood is comfortable with.

Tiny Tim is happy and hopeful despite having nothing, despite having poor health, because he has everything. He has Jesus, and that is what he needs most. Toys, sweets, and medical treatments can improve his life, but toys, sweets, and medical treatments are not life. Jesus is life. Material goods can make life better, but toys, sweets, and medical treatments cannot give life meaning. Jesus does.

Given what possessing Jesus means and what it does, one might think that holding on to Jesus like a miser holds on to his money would make sense. After all, a miser clings to his money because money is his god, he does not spend for fear of losing it. It does not work that way with Jesus. One of the easiest ways to lose Jesus is to keep Him to ourselves. No, Jesus is God the Father's gift to us that is meant to be shared freely with others. We cannot truly possess Jesus unless we give Him to others: He is certainly meant to be re-gifted. It is in re-gifting Jesus that we possess Him more and more.

So let us tread where Hollywood fears to go. Let us be like Tiny Tim, content to have Jesus as our one true possession. All of the other possessions we have will be taken away at some point in life, but Jesus can't be taken from us especially if we freely give Him to others. So let us give our most prized possession that we might retain Him, let us give Jesus to others so that we can say along with Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one."

- Fr Booth