

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 16th/December 17th 2017: Third Sunday of Advent



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
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Pastor
Rev. Jim W. Booth

Religious Education
Ann Noblitt

SACRAMENTS and LITURGY

English Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

English Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Latin Sunday Mass: 10:45 a.m.

English Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Monday to Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 7:00 a.m. Wednesday and Friday

First Saturday Latin Mass: 8:30 a.m. with confessions beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass: As Announced

Confessions: Thirty minutes before Saturday and Sunday Masses and by request

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.

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: In memory of Eugene Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 17th to December 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Mary & Bill Dinan from December 24th until December 30th.

MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2018, 2019, and 2020 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local communality. Please bring the gift items back with the angel tag attached by next Sunday, December 17th.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Jonathan Howell, Connor Chandler, Chris Green, Justin Ward, Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Juan Perez, and Luis Reyes. We need to fervently pray for those who are discerning a call to the priesthood. We will need 12-15 men to enter seminary by 2020 or we face the closing or consolidation of parishes.

2017 HIGH MASS DATES: December 17th (Gaudete Sunday); Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.)

2018 TENTATIVE HIGH MASS DATES: Sunday, February 4th (Sexagesima Sunday), Sunday, March 11th (Laetare Sunday), Thursday, March 29th (Holy Thursday), Sunday, April 1st (Easter Sunday), Sunday, April 15th (First Communion, Second Sunday After Easter), Thursday, May 31st (Corpus Christi, Thursday 6:00 p.m.), Sunday, July 1st (Precious Blood), Wednesday, August 15th (Assumption, Wednesday 6:00 p.m.), Sunday, September 2nd (Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost), Sunday, October 28th (Christ the King), Sunday, December 16th (Gaudete Sunday), Monday, December 24th (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.).

A NOTE ABOUT CHRISTMAS: The year, Christmas lands on a Monday, which means that our Christmas Eve Masses will be on Sunday. Since every Sunday and Christmas are holy days of obligation, everyone must attend a Mass that counts for Sunday and one that counts for Christmas. This can be done by attending the vigil Mass on Saturday and any of the Masses for Christmas, a Mass on Sunday morning and any of the Christmas Masses, or by attending a Christmas Eve Mass (since it occurs on Sunday) and a Christmas Day Mass. One cannot merely attend a Christmas Eve Mass and have it count for both Sunday and Christmas, however.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$2215 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$2160. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sun, Dec 24:	3:30 p.m.	Carols
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass in English
	7:30 p.m.	Carols
	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve High Mass in Latin
Mon, Dec 25:	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass in English
	10:45 a.m.	Christmas Day Low Mass in Latin

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Mass in Rectory Chapel)

Mon, Dec 18:	*8:30 a.m.	† Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)
Tues, Dec 19:	*8:30 a.m.	† Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)
Wed, Dec 20:	*7:00 a.m.	† Mario Botta (by the Gagnon Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Sylvia Geddes (by the Sampedros)
Thur, Dec 21:	*8:30 a.m.	† Claudia Herrman (by Ann Noblitt and Ginny Daniel)
Fri, Dec 22:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Thomas Rumore (by the Gagnon Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Rebecca Morris (by Anne & Bob Crawford)
Sat, Dec 23:	4:00 p.m.	† Rebecca Morris (by the Ransom Family)
Sun, Dec 24:	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:45 a.m.	† Robert Estave (by the Juneau Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Ella Mae Hale (by the Ransom Family)
	8:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Stephen Rumore (by the Gagnon Family)
Mon, Dec 25	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially William Scroggins, Laura Minjares, John Minjares, Sr., Lamar Smith, Fr Kevin McGrath, OSB, Johnny Young, Sharon Collier, Richard Collier, Paul Pac, Jacob Baker, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Peter Ransom, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Darleen Schultz, Joseph Edwards, Fr Joseph Underwood, George Dunham, Rebecca Rice, Mike Hale, Kay Junk, Liz Pate, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Mary Thornton, Liz Bailey, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Anna Marie Madison, Kathleen Strawmeyer, Cindy Little, Stan Trawick, David Henning, Bill Bankson, Bill Mara, Loretta Mara, Don Broseman, Lillie Rumore, Jennie Sciro, Stephanie Perry, Marcus Perry, Cynthia Daniel, and Jackie Modica.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent	2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16, Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent	2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16, Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38
10:45 a.m. Vigil of Christmas	Rom 1:1-6, Mt 1:18-21

The Sacraments: Matrimony

The teachings from the 5th Chapter of St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians on marriage always gets moans and groans when it is proclaimed at Mass. For whatever reason, the Church offers the option of skipping over the 'cringe-worthy' bits of what St Paul has to say about the relationship between husband and wife. Verses 21 and 22 read "*Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.*" Needless to say, that last sentence is hardly politically correct and it tends to grate horribly on the modern ear. The preceding sentence, that is, verse 21, is almost never heard and it is probably pondered even less frequently.

But what part of "*be subordinate to one another*" do we not understand? Paul is not saying that subordination is a one-way street but is a mutual reality between husband and wife. Likewise, when we hear the word subordinate we think of being inferior or subjugated. If there is anything we tend to abhor, it would be being inferior or subjugated. But if we understand that marriage is a conjugal union of a man and a woman, that man and wife are yoked together in the marital bond – which is what the word conjugal means – we should recognize that our modern sensibilities are all too easily offended and not always tremendously reliable. Thus, is it possible that we might overreact to being subjugated in marriage?

Of course. We can see this in the fact that subjugation has similar roots as the word conjugal. While conjugal means being yoked together at the neck, subjugation ultimately means being brought under a yoke. Yes, a conquering army might subjugate a vanquished people, a tyrant might subjugate his enemies, or a cultural majority might seek to subjugate a minority element of a society, which all represent an offense to human dignity. But does that mean all subjugation is demeaning or undignified? Our tendency is to say 'yes', but this is really not true. All we have to do is consider that we are all called to be subjugated, brought under a yoke, by Jesus Himself. Didn't Jesus say "*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light*" (Mt 11:29-30)? In this instance we take Jesus' yoke upon ourselves voluntarily and in a similar manner husband and wife become yoked together voluntarily in matrimony. Furthermore, taking Jesus' yoke upon ourselves is hardly demeaning or undignified but leads to our achieving the fullness of human dignity: being sons and daughters of God, being coheirs with Christ, becoming tabernacles of the Holy Spirit, and so forth.

So, if being subjugated to Jesus is the best thing that can happen to us, isn't it possible that being subordinate to one another might be a good thing too? At its root, subordinate can be understood to mean being brought under order. Isn't order in a marriage a good thing? Do we really crave chaos and disorder in our families? Figuratively speaking, if a couple yoked together in marriage has the husband heading west and the wife heading north, might it not be better for them to progress together north, west, or even northwest? If at a given point in the marriage the wife is able to advance rapidly but the husband is only able to proceed slowly, isn't it better for them to progress together at the same pace? Is our dignity truly realized and order established by one spouse heading rapidly in one direction and the other heading slowly in another? If husband and wife reject being subject to one another and see themselves as totally independent, is it any wonder that many couples today lament that they have drifted apart from one another?

In any case, St Paul uses the image of marriage to illustrate the relationship between Jesus and the Church. Jesus subordinated Himself by becoming a mere man subject to the material world He created and sustains, He subordinated Himself by becoming subject to the parental authority of Mary and Joseph, and He subordinated Himself by becoming subject to the Law of Moses that He gave the Jews as the Lawgiver. Ultimately He subjected Himself to being rejected and condemned by His Chosen People. If all of this led to the salvation of mankind, surely we can see that being subordinate to one another "*out of reverence for Christ,*" especially in a marriage, is nothing to fear or reject.

- Fr Booth