

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 23rd/December 24th 2017: Fourth Sunday of Advent (English)
Vigil of Christmas (Latin)



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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 Mary & Bill Dinan, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 24th to December 30th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert C. Bryant from December 31st 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.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES for 2018 are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

PARISH CALENDARS for 2018 are located in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

JANUARY 1ST: Monday, January 1st is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God (English) and the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (Latin), but it will not be a Holy Day of Obligation this year because it falls on a Monday. There will be an English Mass at 9:00 a.m. and a Latin Mass at 10:45 a.m. on January 1st.

PLENARY INDULGENCE: A plenary indulgence is attached to the singing or recitation of the *Veni Creator Spiritus* on January 1st. This hymn can be found on page 956 of the *Campion Hymnal* or hymn 460 in the *Gather Hymnal*.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: The families helped by this year's Angel Tree express their gratitude for making Christmas special.

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.

2018 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 \$5046 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$65. 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 25	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Dec 26:	*8:30 a.m.	† Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)
Wed, Dec 27:	*7:00 a.m.	† Phil & Claire Clemons (by the Clemons Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)
Thur, Dec 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Hannah Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)
Fri, Dec 29:	*7:00 a.m.	† Lucile Scroggins (by the Clemons Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Brennan Martignoni (by the Gagnon Family)
Sat, Dec 30:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Deacon Terry Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Dec 31:	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:45 a.m.	† Loved Ones (by the Beaumont 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

As was noted earlier this month, Catechism paragraph 1643 states ‘Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter - appeal of the body and instinct, power of feeling and affectivity, aspiration of the spirit and of will. It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul; it demands indissolubility and faithfulness in definitive mutual giving; and it is open to fertility. In a word it is a question of the normal characteristics of all natural conjugal love, but with a new significance which not only purifies and strengthens them, but raises them to the extent of making them the expression of specifically Christian values.’

Contained in this statement are the three goods of marriage. These goods are indissolubility, faithfulness, and openness to fertility. These are goods in the sense that they represent the essential values or blessings of marriage. These three goods as a group are unique to marriage: no other human relationship can reasonably boast of all three of these goods. Yes, fidelity is assumed to exist in friendships, but friendships are not open to fertility nor can we say that they are permanent. Likewise, family kinship suggests a level of faithfulness and they are permanent whether we like it or not, but they lack the aspect of fertility.

Sadly, each of these three goods has been under assault in our fallen culture for the last fifty or sixty years. In many circles, permanence, fidelity, and fertility have been branded not as goods but as evils. How far we have strayed from what God intends for us as a culture when the very building block of the culture – the family, not the individual – is seen as something outmoded, unessential, and passé, as if something that is true, right, and just has suddenly become false, evil, and unjust.

In terms of indissolubility or permanence, we have made ‘ending’ a marriage through civil means to be far too easy, accessible, and cheap. If it costs on average \$35,000 to ‘tie the knot’, it is shocking to see that the average cost of a divorce is only about 1% of that figure. Granted, some divorces cost more because they are hardly uncontested or because flesh-eating lawyers are employed to stick it to the once-beloved, but shouldn’t it be more costly to end a marriage than to enter into one? That answer would be yes if we actually valued marriage as an institution.

Fidelity or faithfulness is also something that has gone out the window. Reliable statistics on the frequency of marital infidelity are hard to come by. Some want the figure to be high so as to argue that we are simply incapable of living a life of fidelity. They want fidelity to be an aberration. Others want the number to be low because it is hoped that this is not a common thing in a culture. Estimates based on polling data range between 5% and 40%, but I suspect the number to be much less than 40%. But that is not to say that a full-blown affair is the only mode of infidelity. If pornography alone is considered, the numbers are alarmingly high. It is estimated that a full 30% of internet traffic is dedicated to pornography. Pundits once having said that pornography can be healthy and normal have had to back peddle fiercely of recent because its true effects on relationships and marriage in particular are becoming utterly undeniable.

Finally, birth control and abortion have devastated the marital landscape. Fertility is seen as a disease to be cured and the termination of a baby in the womb is touted as essential healthcare. It has not led to the many supposed benefits – end of fear in a marriage, greater freedom, liberation of women, maximizing love by minimizing the number being loved, etc. But what is really seen is objectification of women, less fear of infidelity, normalization of fornication, vast increases in STDs, and a great increase in cancer rates, especially breast cancer.

As Christians, we must recognize that marriage in and of itself is good because God ordained the one man one woman marriage from our very origins. And despite the lies, distortions, and half-truths tossed about in our culture, it is hard to assert that indissolubility, faithfulness, and openness to fertility are bad things at all.

- Fr Booth