

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 30th/December 31st 2017: Holy Family (English)
Sunday in the Octave 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 Robert C. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 31st to January 6th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of John Schauer, Jr. from January 7th until January 13th.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday Mass on January 5th at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory. Mass will be followed with Adoration and Benediction.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on January 6th. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and 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.

KOC MEETING: Our Knight of Columbus will have their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 9th in the parish hall. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

POTLUCK DINNER DANCE: We will have a covered dish dinner dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, February 10th following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to dine and dance.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4,577 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$365. The Christmas collection was \$10,254 and \$1,875 was donated to the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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.).

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

Sun, Dec 31: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. † Loved Ones (by the Beaumont Family)

Mon, Jan 1 9:00 a.m. Private Intention
10:45 a.m. † Mario Botta (by the Hahn Family)

Tues, Jan 2: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Cameron Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)

Wed, Jan 3: *7:00 a.m. † Mario Botta (by the Rumore Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for James Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)

Thur, Jan 4: *8:30 a.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)

Fri, Jan 5: *7:00 a.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)
*8:30 a.m. † Ed and Linda Dahm (by the Clemons Family)

Sat, Jan 6: 8:30 a.m. † Fr Paul Buetter (by the Clemons Family)
4:00 p.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)

Sun, Jan 7: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. † Mario Botta (by the Gagnon Family)
4:00 p.m. Private Intention – *Mass in Tuscaloosa*

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. Epiphany	Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12
9:00 a.m. Epiphany	Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12
10:45 a.m. Holy Family	Col 3:12-17, Lk 2:42-52

The Sacraments: Matrimony

The Catechism goes on to teach that ‘By its very nature the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the offspring and it is in them that it finds its crowning glory. The fruitfulness of conjugal love extends to the fruits of the moral, spiritual, and supernatural life that parents hand on to their children by education. Parents are the principal and first educators of their children. In this sense the fundamental task of marriage and family is to be at the service of life’ (CCC 1652-1653). How often today people separate the reality of children from the institution of marriage. Or if they recognize the role of husband and wife in the rearing of children, so often they miss the truth that they, the parents, are the primary educators of their children.

This is so because our culture, especially our government, has insisted that parents have little or no true role in education. Yes, parents are expected to pay for higher education and they are expected to make sure their kids get their homework done, but in the eyes of many, the parents’ role more or less ends there. The argument goes that the parents are not trained in education and are therefore incompetent to teach their children. This is supposedly better left to the professionals.

After all, the schools are accredited. The teachers have been trained to teach, often having master’s degrees or even doctorates. The government spends about \$11,000 a year for each elementary student, so surely they provide a better education than other forms of school, or so the argument goes. But Catholic parochial schools generally outperform the public schools while spending about half as much money per year. The ultimate case, however, can be made for home schooling. A small fraction of money is spent – ignoring the possible salary that mom might make if she was not home teaching the kids but also ignoring the cost of daycare for the pre-school kids of \$11,700 per year per kid – but the outcome is significantly better. Home schooled kids land roughly in the 85th percentile for all subjects compared to children in public schools. This means that an average home schooled child scores better than 85% of their public school counterparts.

This runs counter to what our culture has been saying for nearly 100 years. This means that spending more per student, insisting on specialized education, having accredited schools, and all of the other supposedly key metrics in educational quality don’t really mean much. College admissions boards have known this for quite some time. Likewise, the old argument about socialization is totally specious as well.

While many continue to doubt that secular education is done better at home than by professionals, it is nearly impossible to argue that the public schools provide an education in morality. Indoctrination in politically correct issues, yes, but not moral education. This was not always the case: civics classes once taught natural law morality and emphasized the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. It was once understood that basic morality was necessary for each and every citizen, that a just and free society needed people to have a basic moral compass. Not so much any more.

Indeed, morality is best taught at home, especially by example. Many priests and bishops would disagree, they would argue that PSR or CCD programs are where children ought to be taught morality. The same arguments made for public schools are made in defense of delegating moral education to others: regulated programs, more qualified teachers, and so on. But the statistics do not bear this out. A child’s morals most often come from their parents even if the parents are not formally teaching their children.

Thus, when the Church teaches that parents are the primary teachers of their children, it might not occur to people just how right that teaching is. Could it be that God intended children to be taught by mom and dad? Given the statistics, it is hard to argue otherwise.

- Fr Booth