

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 18th / December 19th 2021: Fourth Sunday of Advent



**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 to Friday

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

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, which is intended to aid in the social distancing, and will continue on a provisional basis.

COVID-19 RESPONSE, CONFESSIONS: Confessions have returned to the confessional. Confessions will be offered at 3:30-3:55 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday at 7:00-7:25 a.m., 8:30-8:55 a.m., and 10:15-10:40 a.m.

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. 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 Edward Von Hagel, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 19th to December 25th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jeremy Noblitt from December 26th until January 1st.

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 wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached by Sunday, December 19th.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Andrew Vickery, John Paul Stepnowski, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Adam Sellers, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God’s call to the priesthood.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: For 2022, First Communion is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 15th.

CONFIRMATION DATE: Our next confirmation is planned for Spring of 2023.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7571 and \$6725 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

2021 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: The High Mass schedule for the 10:45 a.m. Mass is as follows: Every second, third, and fourth Sunday of the month excluding December 26th with the addition of Christmas (Sat, December 25th).

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a six-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE: On Christmas Eve, Friday December 24th, there will be an English Mass at 4:00 p.m. and a Latin Low Mass at 8:00 p.m. On Christmas Day, there will be a 9:00 a.m. English Mass and a 10:45 High Latin Mass.

A NOTE ON CHRISTMAS AND THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY: To satisfy the obligations to attend Mass on Christmas and on Sunday, December 26th, you must attend one of the Christmas Masses and one of the Sunday Masses. The Sunday Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. on December 25th does not count for both Christmas and Sunday.

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

Sat, Dec 18: 4:00 p.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Dec 19: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Madeleine Hensel (by the Sampedros)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Maria Hand (by Sarah Catherine Rumore)
Mon, Dec 20: *8:30 a.m. Private Intention
Tues, Dec 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ari Fogelman (by Paula Pinter)
Wed, Dec 22: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Beth Mathews (by Mary Claire Mathews)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Tom Pinter (by Paula Pinter)
Thur, Dec 23: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Jones Family (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Fri, Dec 24: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for the Jones Family (by Mary & Betty Mason)
8:00 p.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sat, Dec 25: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mandy Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
4:00 p.m. † Tasia Fifles (by Julie & Lynn Bryant)
Sun, Dec 26: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mandy Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Hester Young (by the Juneau Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially William Hull, Gloria Archambault, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Sister Miracles, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Aaron Minjares, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Don Williams, Roseanne Timpa, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Paul Herrmann, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, George Dunham, 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, Lk 2:41-52
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, Lk 2:41-52
10:45 a.m. Sunday in the Octave of Christmas	Gal 4:1-7, Lk 2:33-40

Punting on Third Down

There is no doubt that we are living in weird and tough times. They tell us that the unemployment rate is 3% and many businesses are struggling to find workers, but many people are not working at all. Some have given up it would seem. It would also seem that our government has pretty much given up doing what it is supposed to do. It has been fifteen years since the congress passed a budget. It is their constitutional duty to pass a federal budget, but congress has chosen to give up doing what every congress has done since 1789. Federal spending is out of control and they don't seem to think budgeting how our tax dollars are spent is worth their effort. Instead, they just spend and spend and spend as if there are no consequences.

But have our politicians not noticed the price of meat? Beef is up 20%, chicken is up 8%, and pork is up 15%. Gas is up 58%. Used cars are up 31% and new car prices are up 11%. Everything is more expensive. Our politicians blame covid. But at the height of covid last year, especially in the midst of lockdowns, things were not this bad. Their solution? To spend even more trillions we don't have.

It is not just a matter of unemployment and the shenanigans of our moronic politicians. Sadly, we see ordinary people giving up left and right. People are giving up on our government, they are giving up on their fellow man, they are giving up on members of their families, and they are giving up on themselves. And of course, many people are giving up on God.

To use a football analogy, many people are punting on third down. Instead of striving to make a first down, it is just easier to punt. Some are even punting on second down, and sadly a growing number of people have resorted to punting on first down. It almost seems like some have lost hope to the point that they don't even bother punting the ball but are willing to hand the ball over to the opposing team.

Indeed, when the human spirit get crushed, hope flees from us. In the absence of hope, the past seems so much better than today and today seems so much better than the future. The virtue of hope assures us, however, that the bad things of the past are behind us and the good things in the future lie ahead of us.

From a strictly human perspective it would seem that God should have given up on us long, long ago. By almost every moral measure, we were behaving better in the past than we are behaving now and there is every indication that we are heading for even deeper moral lows than we suffer today.

Yet God has not given up on mankind. This is the very essence of Christmas. God the Father sends His only begotten Son to us to become one of us and to become one with us. We certainly have not earned this honor and we certainly do not deserve to have God Himself enter the human family. He does this because He loves us, but also because God has hope for mankind, a hope that we have difficulty seeing sometimes.

How much hope does God have for us? All we have to do is consider some of the characters in Jesus' own genealogy (Mt 1:1-17). We see righteous men and women, we see ordinary people, and we also see great sinners. Jesus' family tree has murderers, liars, adulterers, prostitutes, idolaters, blasphemers, and the like.

If Jesus is willing to be born into such a lineage as this, if He is willing to be associated with such sinners, how could we think that God has given up on us? And if God has not given up on mankind, who are we to give up on ourselves? Who are we to give up on members of our family? Who are we to give up on our neighbors? Who are we to give up on our human institutions? Who are we to give up on the future? Who are we to give up on the Church? Who are we to give up on God?

God has so much hope for mankind that He never punts on us. It may seem like 4th down and 99 yards to go, but God will always go for the first down. No matter how many penalties we have committed, no matter how many times we have been sacked, no matter how many men are on the opposing team, Jesus remains with us. And if we remain with Jesus, we should never give up, we should never punt, because not only is a first down certain, but victory is assured.

- Fr Booth