

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

January 1st/January 2nd 2022: Epiphany (English)

Holy Name of Jesus (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 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 Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 2nd to January 8th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Peter and Jeanne Morin from January 9th until January 15th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

EPIPHANY: Epiphany for the Latin Mass is on Thursday, January 6th. There will be a low Mass at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on January 7th 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.

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.

2022 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 Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 10th) with the addition of Holy Thursday (Thursday, April 14th), Pentecost (Sunday, May 5th), Corpus Christi (Thursday, May 16th), Christ the King (Sunday, October 30th), All Saints (Tuesday, November 1st), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$9554 for Christmas, \$5461 for Sunday, and \$2975 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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

Sat, Jan 1:	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Maddie Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Mary Shields (by Monica Duvall)
Sun, Jan 2:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Grace Gagnon (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Margaret Rumore (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
Mon, Jan 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Frances Rooney (by the Duvall Family)
Tues, Jan 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Paris Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Wed, Jan 5:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Joseph Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Luke Brueggan (by the Duvall Family)
Thur, Jan 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Bryan Jerabek (by the Duvall Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for Fr Kevin Bazzel (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Jan 7:	*8:30 a.m.	† Mary Cavanaugh (by Cathy Schauer)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for Mary Margaret Rumore (by Grace Gagnon)
Sat, Jan 8:	4:00 p.m.	† Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Jan 9:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Ari Fogelman (by the Pinter Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Isabel Pinter (by the Pinter Family))

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially James Cover, Fred Foster, 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.	Baptism of the Lord	Isa 42:1-4,6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Lk 3:15-16,21-22
7:30 a.m.	Holy Family	Col 3:12-17, Lk 2:42-52
9:00 a.m.	Baptism of the Lord	Isa 42:1-4,6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Lk 3:15-16,21-22
10:45 a.m.	Holy Family	Col 3:12-17, Lk 2:42-52

Epiphany

It was once understood that the Magi were kings. In the 1970s, when the new age silliness became popular, they were often seen as astrologers. Now scholars believe that they were probably astronomers. As astronomers they are better described as wise men, they more than likely were employed by kings, and they more likely came not as kings but envoys from kings. Jews did not really have astronomers but other peoples certainly did. The reason the Jews did not have astronomers to study the stars was because their calendar was based on the cycle of the moon. You did not need to be a scientist to know the phase of the moon. Other nations used the sun, or really the earth moving around the sun, for their calendar. This required observing the stars. For the Jews, a year was 354 days, for the other nations it was 360 days and later 365 days as their astronomers became more sophisticated.

Thus, the pagans were watching the stars and the Jews were watching the moon. So the Jews missed the Christmas Star, this is why the priests and Herod were in the dark about the birth of a new Jewish King. But how did the pagans know that a king had been born from the witness of the stars and how did they know it was a Jewish king and not an Egyptian or Greek king? A modern amateur astronomer has perhaps answered the question of how they saw the birth of a king and a Jewish one at that. When he looked at the time of Christ's birth, he found that the planet Jupiter made a loop in the sky that formed a crown over the star Regulus. Planets naturally, on occasion, make loops in the sky as they move through the constellations. That is indeed what the word planet means, wanderer.

Jupiter was regarded as the king of planets and had been associated with earthly kings in many cultures. The star Regulus' name means little king. This is a Latin word, but this star was known as 'king' in Greek, Arabic, Chinese, Babylonian, Persian, and Hindu. Thus, the pagan astronomers would have seen the king of planets make a crown over the king of stars, which said to them that a King had been born. But where? Some pagans would have known about the prophecy of a Jewish Messiah to be born of the tribe of Judah, a Son of King David. They would have known because Jews had been scattered around the world since they had been deported many times by conquering empires.

Thus some would have been familiar with what the Book of Genesis says of the tribe of Judah: "*Judah is a lion's cub, you have grown up on prey, my son. He crouches, lies down like a lion, who would dare rouse him? The scepter shall never depart from Judah, or the mace from between his feet, until tribute comes to him, and he receives the people's obedience*" (Gen 49:9-10). The star Regulus, the star that was crowned by the motion of Jupiter, happens to be in the constellation of Leo, which of course means lion. The constellation Leo happens to depict a crouching lion, a lion lying down.

There is more speculation or insight that came from this amateur astronomer. What it points to is that God was able to speak to the world through nature. This should not surprise us too much since Psalm 19 begins saying "*The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands. Day unto day pours forth speech; night unto night whispers knowledge. There is no speech, no words; their voice is not heard; A report goes forth through all the earth, their messages, to the ends of the world*" (Ps 19:2-5). Likewise, we hear in the beginning of the Letter to the Romans "*For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made*" (Rom 1:19-20).

What this means is that Jesus came to save the whole world because He is Lord of all. He is not the Savior of a few, not the Savior of a specific nation or people, nor one Savior among many. The whole point of the revelation of Jesus, the whole point of His Epiphany is that God wants to save all of mankind. Indeed, the Magi represent all of us. They do homage to the Baby Jesus and we need to do so as well. But those who don't know Jesus are no longer looking to the stars or the moon but looking to us. The best way to do homage to the Baby Jesus is for us to point to Him with what we say and do just as the star pointed Him out to the Magi at His birth.

- Fr Booth