

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

November 26th/November 27th 2022: First Sunday of Advent



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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: Saturday 3:30-3:55 p.m., Sunday 7:00-7:25, 8:30-8:55, and 10:15- 10:40 a.m.

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, to aid in the social distancing, and continues on a provisional basis.

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 Lois Pruitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from November 27th to December 3rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Hazel Melendez from December 4th until December 10th.

ADVENT PROJECT: During Advent, we will collect blankets and coats for the Catholic Center of Concern. Please place the coats and blankets in the back of the Church near the statue of St Therese.

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 Sunday, December 18th.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on December 2nd 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.

RORATE MASS: In lieu of usual First Saturday events, there will be a Rorate Mass, a Latin Mass in honor of Our Lady, on Saturday December 3rd at 6:15 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be potluck brunch following the 9:00 Mass.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE: Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we will have our normal 4:00 p.m., 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. Mass schedule for Christmas.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Our pledge goal this year is \$20,000. Almost all money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese. As of mid-October, we have pledged about \$14,600 (73%) of our parish goal.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Daniel Sessions, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, John Paul Stepnowski, Andrew Vickery, Hunter Limbaugh, Adam Sellers, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God’s call to the priesthood.

2022 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: The High Mass schedule for the 10:45 a.m. Mass is as follows: Every Sunday with the addition of Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

TENTATIVE FIRST COMMUNION DATE: For 2023, April 23rd has been identified as the date for First Communion.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7704 and \$600 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, Nov 26:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Suzanne Vickery (by Trish Beaumont)
Sun, Nov 27:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Maddie Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Shields (by Monica Duvall)
Mon, Nov 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Tues, Nov 29:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Frances Rooney (by Monica Duvall)
Wed, Nov 30:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Paris Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Joseph Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
Thur, Dec 1:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Luke Brueggen (by Monica Duvall)
Fri, Dec 2:	*8:30 a.m.	† Juan F. Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
	6:30 p.m.	† Juan F. Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Dec 3:	6:15 a.m.	† Juan F. Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Dec 4:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Marc Ayers (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Jacob Duryea (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Sam Montalbano, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Aaron Minjares, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, 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.	Second Sunday of Advent	Isa 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12
7:30 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent	Rom 15:4-13, Mt 11:2-10
9:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent	Isa 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12
10:45 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent	Rom 15:4-13, Mt 11:2-10

Our Merciful King

Jesus is our one true King. We do well to remember this, because in a complex and rapidly changing world it is all too easy to forget or discount this fact. Because we are so bound up in the business and busyness of the world, we do not always give the realities of the next world due consideration. For instance, we might ask ourselves what we fear more, having to answer to agencies such as the IRS or the FBI, especially as politics make them increasingly unjust and corrupt, or having to answer to a divine King who is all just and utterly incorruptible. Because there is little accountability, the IRS and the FBI are capable of making iffy accusations, manipulating evidence, or overlooking exonerating facts, but our true King only deals in the truth. Any accusation, evidence, or mitigating factor will be such that we cannot dispute how our King judges our worthiness or unworthiness of obtaining heaven. While we might be able to fool the IRS or FBI and while they are hardly all knowing and all seeing, Jesus knows it all more thoroughly and completely than we do ourselves. Finally, the government might bring us to trial and pass sentence on us such that we lose our financial assets, our liberty, or both. In our trial before the divine King, the stakes are much higher: they are eternal.

Besides the omniscience, pure justice, and incorruptibility of Jesus our King, there is another factor that we are unlikely to get from any government institution: mercy. Unless you are a member of the elite or happen to have some type of political privilege, the machine of governmental justice will entertain no semblance of clemency. In many cases, the world is unwilling to forgive and forget unless you belong to a particular class of people. For example, some people can lie with impunity under oath with no consequences or even to be hailed as heroes while others will be bankrupted defending themselves in court or imprisoned for not having perfect memories. Justice for me and those like me, but not for thee. Clemency for me and those like me, but not for thee.

There is no injustice, favoritism, or pettiness in Jesus. The judgment we receive from Him will be the fairest one we will ever have. As Moses taught, *“For the Lord, your God, is the God of gods, the Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who has no favorites, accepts no bribes, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving them food and clothing”* (Deut 10:17-18). Also, as St Paul teaches, *“Yes, affliction and distress will come upon every human being who does evil, Jew first and then Greek. But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, Jew first and then Greek. There is no partiality with God”* (Rom 2:9-11).

Given that *“all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23), no one has an inside track on salvation. We all stand equally before the Lord in our need of His mercy. We might object to this equal need for mercy: like it or not, *“there is no partiality with God.”* But so-and-so was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. With or without that silver, gold, or platinum spoon, we must *“repent and believe”* (Mk 1:15) to obtain His mercy. But I am powerful and inspire fear in others. Unless you are more powerful and more awesome than God, you best repent and believe to obtain His mercy. But I am a simple man. If so, then simply repent and believe. But so-and-so was such a big sinner. Big sinner or small sinner, we must all repent and believe. But so-and-so sinned grievously against me. Therefore, forgive, forgive, and forgive again, then repent and believe. But I did so much for the Church. It means nothing unless you repent and believe. But I have faith, so I don't have to repent. Jesus said *“repent and believe”* not repent or believe. Believe in what He taught, believe in Him, repent, and get a better handle on those pesky conjunctions.

The season of Advent begins with the contemplation of the end of this world and the end of our own participation in this world, the latter being more likely to occur first. Thoughts of the end and the divine judgment that follows precede a rush to celebrate the Nativity lest we forget why Jesus became one of us in the first place. He became one of us so that we might be able to be judged worthy of salvation through His mercy. Mercy from our brothers and sisters, especially from soulless institutions, can be hard to come by, but our Lord's mercy is a simple matter of repenting and believing.

- Fr Booth