

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>/December 11<sup>th</sup> 2022: Third 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 Edward Von Hagel, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 11<sup>th</sup> until December 17<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Mary and Bill Dinan from December 18<sup>th</sup> until December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**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 next Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**MORNING WITH MARY:** All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

**THIRD SUNDAY:** Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. 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 8<sup>th</sup>).

**TENTATIVE FIRST COMMUNION DATE:** For 2023, Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> has been identified as the date for First Communion.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$6874 and \$605 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, Dec 10: 4:00 p.m. † Tony Morris (by the Bryant Family)  
Sun, Dec 11: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Terry Rumore (by the Rumore Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charlie Rumore (by Allison Rumore)  
Mon, Dec 12: \*8:30 a.m. Private Intention  
Tues, Dec 13: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for John Sampedro (by George & Madeline Sampedro)  
Wed, Dec 14: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for the Nicholas Tate (by the Rumore Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Bauer Family (by Margaret Masney)  
Thur, Dec 15: \*8:30 a.m. † Thellis Williamson (by the Donellan Family)  
Fri, Dec 16: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Kevin Kelly (by Mary Jane Kelly)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Johnny Cooper (by the Donellan Family)  
Sat, Dec 17: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Bill & Judy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)  
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Judy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)  
Sun, Dec 18: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Bill Donellan (by the Donellan Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Linda Cooper (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. Fourth Sunday of Advent  | Isa 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24 |
| 7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent  | 1Cor 4:1-5, Lk 3:1-6               |
| 9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent  | Isa 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24 |
| 10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent | 1Cor 4:1-5, Lk 3:1-6               |

## *Rejoice!*

By pronouncing the call to joy this Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, we hint at turning from contemplation of the Second Coming of Christ at some certain yet vague future time to His first coming some 2020 years ago. In doing so we are still anticipating the Second Coming while hinting at Jesus' coming among us at Christmas. Focusing on the Nativity actually begins on December 17<sup>th</sup>. In other words, Advent spends all but the final week preparing for the end of the world and only one week preparing for the enlightenment of the world that came with Jesus being born among us.

Our temptation and tendency to jump the Christmas gun may make Advent's prime emphasis on the end of the world seem odd. Preparing for the end might easily seem excessive. This is especially the case because we want more Christmas – more joy – and we want it now. But we often forget that Christmas is a season that is supposed to begin on December 25<sup>th</sup> run up until the Epiphany, which traditionally occurs on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This is the twelve days of Christmas, December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>. We easily lose sight of the fact that Christmas is not a single day but a season because our culture jumps the Christmas gun and begins celebrating even prior to Advent with everything winding down on Christmas Day. It does not help that the Church has muddied the waters of Christmastide by moving Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> to the Sunday after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thus, at least in the English Mass calendar, Epiphany can fall as early as January 2<sup>nd</sup> and as late as January 8<sup>th</sup> making the duration of the season of Christmas range from 8 to 14 days. This plays havoc with the carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.' Last year, the last gift given would have been eight maids a-milking. The true love gets gyped but her suitor no doubt saves a tremendous amount of money. This year the suitor will have to come up with gifts for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> days of Christmas. Thirteen air-a-fryers, fourteen labradoodles? Thirteen fruitcakes re-gifting, fourteen pounds a-gaining? Oy!

In any case, Gaudete Sunday is a ray of hope given in a season that is meant for somber reflection and restrained preparation. Contemplating the Second Coming, with all of the tribulations and woes that lead up to it, is a bit daunting. While thoughts about the end of the world can be dispiriting and demoralizing, it is nonetheless necessary. We do not want to think about such things – thus the rush to Christmas and its premature celebration – but how prepared will we really be if we simply coast through Advent with hardly a thought about the Second Coming?

We might think that the Second Coming won't happen soon. Don't be too sure of that. A man in Florida has to know that a hurricane will hit sooner or later. He can tell himself that his city has never been hit in his lifetime and thus fails to prepare. That is a reasonable strategy until it isn't. He might find himself trying to buy plywood at the last minute. Will there be enough plywood? Will there be any? Will there be enough time to fortify his house before the hurricane strikes? Is this a reasonable and rational risk to make? Are our immortal souls reasonable things to put at risk given that we know the Second Coming might happen at any moment and with little or even less warning than a hurricane?

While the Second Coming might not come in our lifetimes, death will most certainly come. Death is one of the two certainties in life, the other being taxes. The preparation for the end of the world and for the end of our lives is pretty much the same. First, we need to be right with God. We need to be in a state of grace. This is one of the reasons why the Church insists on us going to confession at least once a year. In like manner, we need to be reforming our lives. If we are sinning as much or even more than we were 10 or 15 years ago, then we have much work to do. If not, we still have work to do. Complacency is not our friend in this case. Second, we need to become more and more detached from worldly things. We need to keep the worldly things we have in perspective. None of them brings us closer to heaven.

Spiritually speaking, let us not be like the guy that is unprepared for the hurricane. Let us not try to reform our lives and confess our sins at the last minute. It makes no sense for withstanding the imminent hurricane, and it makes even less sense for preserving our souls.

- Fr Booth