

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 17th/December 18th 2022: Fourth 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.

CHANGE IN DAILY MASS SCHEDULE: Beginning in the first week of January, we will have daily Mass at 8:30. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays Mass will be offered in English and Mass will be offered in Latin on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The First Friday and First Saturday schedules will remain unchanged.

IN MEMORIAM: In memory of Mary and Bill Dinan, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 18th until December 24th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jeremy Noblitt from December 25th until December 31st.

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 this Sunday, December 18th.

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.

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, Sunday, April 23rd has been identified as the date for First Communion.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week, including the Immaculate Conception, was \$8629 and \$285 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 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)
Mon, Dec 19:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Tues, Dec 20:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Scott Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Dec 21:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for John Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Max Cook (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Dec 22:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Dec 23:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Richard & Patricia LaHood (by Michael & Whitney Axelson)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Joseph & Catherine Kelly (by Kevin E. Kelly)
Sat, Dec 24:	4:00 p.m.	† Edward Archambault (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Dec 25:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Carolyn Watson (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Elena Bull (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)

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. Christmas, Vigil Mass	Isa 62:1-5, Acts 13:16-17,22-25, Mt 1:1-25
7:30 a.m. Christmas, Mass at Dawn	Titus 3:4-7, Lk 2:15-20
9:00 a.m. Christmas, Mass During the Day	Isa 52:7-10, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18
10:45 a.m. Christmas, Mass During the Day	Heb 1:1-12, Jn 1:1-14

A Miraculous Image

One of the things a nation ought to do is document and preserve its history. Knowing where you have been as a nation is important. It places the nation in history, and if there are good things that the country has done, they can be celebrated. All countries have done bad things, sometimes by mistake but not always, and documenting those events are equally important. Not that the evil a country has done might be celebrated, but that history might not repeat itself out of ignorance. History is more important than most people realize. This is why some people seek to manipulate history, especially those with political agendas that are hostile to the truth. They do so by rewriting history to bleach the evil away, invent triumphs that never happened, amplify evils committed, or even invent false atrocities, depending on what facts and falsehoods support their particular agenda.

Artifacts often provide concrete and enduring evidence of what happened. General Dwight Eisenhower insisted that the news media be invited into the liberated nazi concentration camps to document what was done. In absence of video proof, it would have been nearly impossible to convince the world, the Germans included, of the sheer magnitude and depth of the horror. Even with eyewitness testimony and video evidence, an increasing number of people think the murder of six million Jews and another six million others was a hoax. If digital technology had not come to the rescue, the evidence of the atrocities would be gone because the original movie film from the liberation of the concentration camps has largely turned to dust. Similar things are happening to home movies captured on Super 8 film or VHS tapes. Time has a similar destructive power over historical evidence. Indeed, we find certain artifacts have largely ceased to exist due to the ravages of time. One type of artifact in particular that has decayed greatly with time is historic flags. Flags flown during the Revolution some 245 years ago are profoundly rare due to deterioration. National and battle flags from the Civil War, about 160 years ago, are also tough to find in any recognizable condition. Even flags from WWI and WWII continue to deteriorate and fall apart in our museums.

Given the fate of our historic flags, if we consider the tilma worn by Juan Diego, the outer garment that was miraculously imprinted with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we should truly wonder how it still survives today after nearly 500 years. Indeed, our nation's flags are falling apart, even those kept in museum conditions, but Juan Diego's tilma is still in very good shape. This is amazing given the tilma bearing Our Lady's image was not cared for as well as we care for our flags, and more importantly, the material from which the tilma was made very rarely lasts more than 15 years before totally falling apart. No replica, using the same fabric, has lasted more than 20 years.

The fact that the tilma has not fallen apart after 490 years is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to this image. Apart from later additions made to the image, such as silver paint and gold leaf, scientists have not been able to explain the nature of the pigments in the image. It is not paint or dye and there are no brush strokes or any hint that it was made by hand. The additions to the image, the gold and silver, have aged as expected, but not the fabric or the original pigmentation. Likewise, this image survived an attempt to destroy it with explosives. The building was heavily damaged, and even though the explosives were detonated right beneath the tilma, the tilma survived totally unscathed. The image has also survived, inexplicably, having strong acid splashed upon it.

So what are we to make of all of this? What does this mean to us today? Well, if God is willing to leave His fingerprint through the apparition of the Blessed Virgin on a simple peasant's clothing, what is He willing to do for our souls? If God can preserve an image on an article of clothing beyond any worldly explanation, how much more was He able to preserve the Virgin Mary from all sin from the moment when was conceived up to the end of her earthly life? How much more is God able to forgive our sins and guide us to eternal life? How much more can Jesus come to us under the appearance of bread and wine? How much more is God able to have Elizabeth conceive John the Baptist in her old age or Mary to conceive Jesus as a virgin? As Gabriel explains, "*for nothing will be impossible for God*" (Lk 1:37).
- Fr Booth