

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> / December 25<sup>th</sup> 2022: Christmas**



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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 Jeremy Noblitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 25<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jack Schauer from January 1<sup>st</sup> until January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Since this is New Year’s Day, there will not be coffee and donuts after the 9:00 Mass.

**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.

**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 \$7453 and \$8475 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 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)  
Mon, Dec 26: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Hannah Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
Tues, Dec 27: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Brennan Martignoni (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
Wed, Dec 28: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Alexander Arroyo (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
\*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for James Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
Thur, Dec 29: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Cameron Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
Fri, Dec 30: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Thomas Rumore (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
\*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for David Newman (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
Sat, Dec 31: 4:00 p.m. † Elizabeth Ransom (by the Bryant Family)  
Sun, Jan 1: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ryan Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially ShaKendria Hooks, 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. Mary, Mother of God	Num 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21
7:30 a.m. Circumcision of the Lord	Titus 2:11-15, Lk 2:21
9:00 a.m. Mary, Mother of God	Num 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21
10:45 a.m. Circumcision of the Lord	Titus 2:11-15, Lk 2:21

## *One Like Moses*

Adam and Eve had one commandment. Just one. The rest of what they were to do was written on their hearts because they were created good and innocent. The knowledge of morality also exists in our hearts, only the inscription in us is fainter because of the sin of Adam and Eve and grows dimmer the more we let sin rule our lives. The fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden would seem to be the end, it would seem to be the easy-won victory of satan over God, or at least over God's greatest creation. God, however, does not leave man without hope. In confronting satan for what he has done in bringing down mankind, God provides us a ray of hope: "*The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel'*" (Gen 3:14-15). The mention of her seed is an utterly unique as well as a biologically impossible reality. This implies a virgin conception and birth of the One who will vanquish satan.

This represents the first hint of the coming of a Savior for mankind. Other parts of the Old Testament prefigure the Messiah, such as Moses telling the people that "*A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kindred; that is the one to whom you shall listen*" (Dt 18:15). What kind of prophet was Moses? Moses revealed God's will for His people and delivered the Chosen People from the physical bondage slavery. This promise either implies that the Israelites would again fall into physical slavery in the future or that this new Prophet will deliver them from something else. Indeed, the new Prophet, the Messiah, will deliver them – and all of mankind – not from the bondage of a tyrant like pharaoh but from a greater and more ancient foe: satan.

So, there should be no surprise that Moses' and Jesus' lives share some similarities. For example, by the time Moses was born pharaoh had decreed the death of every Hebrew boy at their birth. He condemned the boys out of fear that they would grow up to be warriors that could threaten his kingdom. King Herod feared for his own kingdom when he heard that a new King of the Jews had been born. He also ordered the slaughter of all of the baby boys in the region of Bethlehem. Likewise, news of the birth of the King of the Jews came to Herod via the Magi while news of a Hebrew deliverer came to the ears of pharaoh from astrologers or astronomers in Egypt. Wise men in both cases reveal God's plan to the powerful who were opposed to God and His people. Despite the foreknowledge of pharaoh and Herod, Moses and the Messiah are both saved by the disobedience of individuals who chose not to execute pharaoh's and Herod's orders. The midwives did not kill the baby boys by throwing them in the Nile, thus saving the life of Moses, and the Magi did not report the location of the newborn King as Herod requested, instead going back home by another way.

Later Moses flees to Midian after having killed an Egyptian and incurring the wrath of pharaoh. When Herod realized that the Magi were not returning with information of the new King of the Jews, the Holy Family likewise has to flee the wrath of Herod, ending up in Egypt. After the passage of time, Moses is told by God "*Return to Egypt, for all those who sought your life are dead*" (Ex 4:19). It is now safe for Moses to return to Egypt. In like manner, the Lord speaks to Joseph in a dream, saying "*Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead*" (Mt 2:20). It is now safe for the infant Jesus to return from Egypt.

Later, as Moses led the people away from Egypt to the Promised Land, they followed him, but halfheartedly at best. They were quite rebellious. They were quite stiff-necked. Much the same can be said of Jesus' followers. He leads us to the ultimate Promised Land of heaven. We are quite rebellious as well, perhaps even more so. We follow Him halfheartedly and are often stiff-necked. Nevertheless, Jesus is the promised Prophet and long awaited Messiah, "*the one to whom [we] shall listen.*" Indeed, if we do not like where our world is leading us – we'd be crazy to desire that destination – we'd best listen to Jesus who, even as an infant, leads us to where we ought to be.

- Fr Booth