

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 31st/January 1st 2023: Mary, Mother of God (English)
Circumcision of the Lord (Latin)



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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, Wednesday, and Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 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 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 Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 1st to January 7th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Peter & Jeanne Morin from January 8th until January 14th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This 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.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on January 6th at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin High Mass of the Epiphany at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on January 7th. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

MASS & MARCH FOR LIFE: Bishop Raica will celebrate a Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St Paul on Saturday, January 14th at 9:00 a.m. Following the Mass, there will be a one-hour peaceful prayer vigil beginning at 10:45 a.m. at Planned Parenthood, located at 1019 1st Avenue North. Please come and speak out on behalf of innocent babies and others who can’t speak for themselves against the culture of death.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$16,315 and \$1,860 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 31: 4:00 p.m. † Elizabeth Ransom (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Jan 1: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ryan Gagnon & Family (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)
Mon, Jan 2: *8:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin E. Kelly)
Tues, Jan 3: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Teresa Fernandes (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)
Wed, Jan 4: *8:30 a.m. † Marianne Mann Thompson (by The Hahn Family)
Thur, Jan 5: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Margaret Pohorelsky (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)
Fri, Jan 6: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Bettye Carrico (by The Hahn Family)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Scott & Lori Donellan (by The Hahn Family)
Sat, Jan 7: 8:30 a.m. † Catherine & Joseph Kelly (by Mary Jane Kelly)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Bonnie Bell (by The Duvall Family)
Sun, Jan 8: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Stephen Rumore (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Blaise Hahn (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

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| 4:00 p.m. Epiphany | Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12 |
| 7:30 a.m. Holy Family | Col 3:12-17, Lk 2:42-52 |
| 9:00 a.m. Epiphany | Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12 |
| 10:45 a.m. Holy Family | Col 3:12-17, Lk 2:42-52 |

True God and True Man has a True Mother

It is impossible to claim that the world is not losing its mind. We are sliding into social insanity at an alarming rate. For example, our halfwit politicians are printing money and wildly spending it in the name of inflation reduction. They are allowing untold amounts of drugs to cross our border and we have thousands of unaccompanied minors or minors accompanied by adults who are not their parents or relatives crossing the border. What could go wrong with more fentanyl and human trafficking of children? Likewise, obvious lies are purported as truth and truths are declared lies. To point out or contradict the lies makes you a denier, a fascist, a conspiracy theorist, racist, or worse.

One of the biggest lies circulating today is that sex and gender are mere social constructs. Somehow a doctor, a trained medical professional, is no longer qualified to determine the gender of a newborn baby. Occasionally it is not obvious on a visual basis, but it is now a simple procedure to establish the baby's gender through a DNA test. Follow the science, right? Nope. Associating having two X chromosomes with being female or having an X and Y chromosome with being male is a heteronormative plot to deny people the right to choose their own gender. Never mind that 100% of females have two X chromosomes and 100% of males have an X and a Y chromosome, never mind the established science that has been known for about 140 years, never mind the fact that DNA has been used to solve millions of crimes by identifying criminals with metaphysical certitude, never mind biological fact expressed in millions of lifeforms on the planet. Nope, halfwit social engineers, with no little or no scientific background, have decreed the 'truth' that sex and gender are socially determined.

So, no doubt, this weekend, or sometime in the near future, there will be at least one halfwit priest describing the Virgin Mary as the birthing person of God. The priest or priests might go further and refer to the mother of Jesus as Mary/Mario and opt for a neutral pronoun such as they. No sense in presuming on how Mary might have self-identified. There will be parishioners who applaud such a brave and progressive priest. There also will be parishioners who are rightly offended by the priest speaking of Mary as the birthing person of God and they might go so far as writing their bishop to complain. In many dioceses little or no discipline of the halfwit priest will likely result.

The facts – true facts, as in God's truth – are that Mary is a true woman and is the true mother of one Child. She conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit without knowledge of Joseph or any other man. She gave birth to Jesus among barnyard animals and was visited by angels, shepherds, and wisemen. She nursed and tended to Jesus in the normal way. She and Joseph protected and raised Jesus into adulthood. Everything Mary did for Jesus is what mothers have been doing for thousands of years. Indeed, Mary is the biological mother of Jesus and Joseph is the legal father of Jesus, His father according to the Law of Moses. We can and ought to go further to say that Mary truly is the mother of God and that Joseph is truly the foster father of God.

Putting aside the gender silliness afflicting our culture today, we can say that Mary is the Mother of God because she is the mother of Jesus. Jesus is true God and true man, but it would be a mistake to say that Mary is only mother of Jesus as a man. Manhood is a nature, a nature established by God and not any culture, but no woman is a mother of the manhood or womanhood of her children. Even Martin Luther understood that Mary was the mother of God. John Calvin, however, denied that Mary was the mother of God but insisted that she was only the mother of Jesus' humanity. His complaint was that a mere woman could not create God in her womb, that somehow the title of mother of God implied the Second Person of the Trinity came to be at the conception of Jesus.

This misconception is alive and well today. Many claim that Mary was the mother of Jesus' humanity or that she merely provided a means for Jesus to assume human flesh. This is a fundamental misunderstanding of motherhood. Motherhood is a relationship, not a mere function. No mother is a mother to a nature or to a body. Every mother is the mother of a person. Mary is the mother of Jesus, the incarnate Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Period.

- Fr Booth