

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*January 7th/January 8th 2023: Epiphany (English)
Holy Family (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
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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.”

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON CONFESSIONS: Beginning in Lent we will begin using a new formula for absolution that reads: “God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and **poured out** the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God **grant** you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Changes in Bold).

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 Peter & Jeanne Morin, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from 8th to January 14th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Neil Tallie from January 15th until January 21st.

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.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: Contribution envelopes for 2023 are located in the back vestibule of the church.

MASS & VIGIL 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.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$8584 and \$305 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, 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)
Mon, Jan 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Tues, Jan 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Sherry Morrow (by The Duvall Family)
Wed, Jan 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Cora Duvall (by The Duvall Family)
Thur, Jan 12:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Ducote Family (by The Duvall Family)
Fri, Jan 13:	*8:30 a.m.	† Anthony Morris (by Helen Brandley)
Sat, Jan 14:	4:00 p.m.	† Ervin Weaver, Jr. (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Jan 15:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Nathan Tate (by the Rumore Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Annette Clark (by the Rumore Family)

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, 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 Ordinary Time	Is 49:3,5-6, 1Cor 1:1-3, Jn 1:29-34
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday after Epiphany	Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	Is 49:3,5-6, 1Cor 1:1-3, Jn 1:29-34
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday after Epiphany	Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11

What Manner of Men Were the Magi?

Exactly who the Magi were has been debated over and over in recent times. Traditionally, they were assigned the role of kings, partially based on assuming that prophecies from Isaiah and the psalms directly apply to the Magi. Linking the Magi to kings who would worship the Messiah is quite natural but it might be an unnecessary and unwarranted stretch. They don't travel with a retinue of minions and courtiers nor is there any pomp of royalty about them. Likewise, Herod does not receive them as kings and he more or less sends them forth as errand boys, suggesting that they are not even princes. A different train of thought makes them out simply to be wise men. Here, there is no specific royal status implied. Given what we know from the Scriptures, it is hardly clear that they are learned men such as modern academics who often suffer from intellectual myopia. After all, not all educated men are wise and many who are wise lack formal education. So, somehow these wise men are able to interpret the sign of the star and conclude that there is a newborn King of the Jews. But if these men are of no particular social or educational status, foreigners at that, could they have reasonably expected to get an audience with King Herod? Being more or less ordinary men could they have just chosen to traverse hundreds or perhaps thousands of miles on a whim? So there is more to these men than simply being wise.

Another modern interpretation would be that the Magi are astrologers. This of course has led many people to assume that they were like modern astrologers of today, basically glorified fortunetellers. Of course, the modern astrologer is a product of the occult and New Age movements and therefore should be of zero interest for a Christian. There is no moral or spiritual basis to modern astrology just as there is absolutely no scientific basis for the position of the stars at our birth or on any given day having an effect on our lives. Astrology only seems to have some science behind it, it only seems to have some form of power. But it is all an illusion.

So what are these Magi? They are not kings but they are men of prominence, probably something akin to modern astronomers. Herod is a king but it avails him nothing. They are not just simple wise men, but they have wisdom and education. The scribes and priests are wise and educated too, but it avails them nothing. The Magi knew the stars, they studied the skies because it was important. It was important for agriculture, for example, to know when to plant crops, accurately tracking the seasons by the stars. Yes, we use calendars, but their calendars drifted with time, about five days a year. They were scientists, not charlatans like modern astrologers. For many scientists today, knowing the details and secrets of nature avails them nothing.

What made the Magi special was not their wealth or prominence. It was not their learning and wisdom. It was not that they had an understanding of what God has made. Many people were wiser, more intelligent, better educated than they were but did not seek the new King of the Jews. No, what sets the Magi apart is exactly what sets the shepherds apart. In a way, it is what sets the Baby they came to see and His parents apart. It is humility.

Without humility, Herod is a nasty, petty, and insecure tyrant. Without humility, the scribes and priests treat the word of God as a dead letter. Without humility, the typical scientist of today sees manifold evidence of God but fails to let that evidence speak for itself. How the complexity of life, the immenseness of the universe, the order of nature, and that the smallest and largest things in the universe follow immutable and universal laws do not strongly suggest the existence of an all powerful Creator, then what does?

Therefore we must ask ourselves if we truly see humility in the proper light. We often see humility as weakness. We see humility as something that characterizes a loser. But it is in humility that Jesus came to us, and it is through humility that we recognize what He has done for us. Indeed, without humility, it is easy to write Jesus off as a nobody. It is with humility that we can see His power and it is through humility that that power can operate in our lives.

- Fr Booth