

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**February 4<sup>th</sup>/February 5<sup>th</sup> 2023: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
Septuagesima Sunday (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.”

**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 Chester Olson, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January February 5<sup>th</sup> to February 11<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Alexander Salillas from February 12<sup>th</sup> until February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection this weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

**DISCERNMENT WEEKEND:** The Office of Vocations is hosting a Priesthood Discernment Weekend from Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at Casa Maria. Fr Bazzel will lead this weekend of prayer, talks, and fellowship for men discerning a call to priesthood. Fr Vintson, Vocation Director, will be present to answer questions about discernment, the application process, and seminary life. This weekend experience is for men ages 18-35 years. The event is free, but registration is required. Visit [www.bhmdiocese.org/vocations](http://www.bhmdiocese.org/vocations) to register.

**2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** have been mailed.

**FIRST COMMUNION DATE:** Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date for First Communion.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$16,165 and \$225 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

**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.

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is about a seven-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

**MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS:** (\*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Feb 4:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Thom Price (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Feb 5:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mike Irwin (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlie & Allison Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Feb 6:	*8:30 a.m.	† Pope Benedict XVI
Tues, Feb 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Ryan & Clarisa Guadet (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Feb 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Peter Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Feb 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jennifer Rodriguez (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Feb 10:	*8:30 a.m.	† Thomas Reccell (by Helen Brandley)
Sat, Feb 11:	4:00 p.m.	† Jerry Simmons (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Feb 12:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Margaret Masney (by Monica Duvall)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Christopher Ducote (by the Duvall Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Mary Simmons, Victoria Sanderson, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Sam Montalbano, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahan, 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. Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 15:15-20, 1Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37
7:30 a.m. Sexagesima Sunday	2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15
9:00 a.m. Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 15:15-20, 1Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37
10:45 a.m. Sexagesima Sunday	2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15

## ***Can the Individual Really be the Supreme Expression of Humanity?***

Jesus did not come into the world as an individual. He certainly could have done so. He could have skipped all the development inside the womb of Mary and later in the family setting provided by Joseph and Mary. He who created the incomprehensibly vast universe would have had no problem at all simply entering this world as a fully formed adult. Had He done so apart from a family and from the influence of culture, then one might claim that the individual is supreme over the family and over the culture. He could have created Himself as a Son of David, at least genetically. Of course that would have been incomprehensible at the time, and that would have negated prophecies surrounding the Messiah, such as Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14. Likewise, He had to be born under the Law of Moses, be subject to that covenant, and fulfill it perfectly. Thus, Jesus was born into a family and into a culture, and later He became subject to the covenant of the Chosen People when He was circumcised on the eighth day.

Humanly speaking, a family (a lineage), a culture, and a covenant defined who Jesus was when He walked this planet. Clearly, these things mean something and cannot just be tossed aside as if they did not matter at all. For example, my northern European ancestry gives me a greater propensity for skin cancer whether I like it or not. Whether I like it or not, there were probably haggis-eating caber-tossing as well as longboat-sailing claymore-wielding men among my forebears. The past is what it is. My ancestry is what it is. Likewise, I was born into a largely Christian culture at one side or the other of its peak and currently live in a post-Christian, post-modern, post-rational, post-patriotic, post-moral, post-proud, post-freemarket, post-democratic, post-truth-loving culture in irreversibly rapid decline. I cannot turn back the cultural clock to 1960. I cannot declare myself Maltese or proclaim my skin to be immune to cancer. God determined the circumstances of our birth, He chose the times we live in, He knew how our culture would grow and decline long before the earth was formed.

The Lord has given us the true understanding of humanity, the true understanding of the family, the true understanding of culture, the true understanding of life, and the two true religions He established, first the Old Covenant that was superseded by the New Covenant. But that has not stopped us from making a mess of things. We tend to define the meaning of our own lives. We are prone to reducing humanity to an accident of nature enslaved to the laws of biochemistry. We can't stop inventing our own religions. Recently we seem determined to redefine family while negating its significance. And when we do so, suffering, pain, and death result.

For example, 25-30 years ago certain activists began calling for banning the circumcision of boys. It was supposedly cruel and unnecessary. Different advocates rightly campaigned against similar procedures for girls. For girls it was utterly barbaric and unnecessary while definite benefits have been recognized for boys. But where are these advocates for protecting boys and girls today? It is likely that these same people and other of their ilk are championing the current horror show of opposite gender hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and juvenile gender reassignment surgery. How could they go from opposing a minor and beneficial procedure – boys' circumcision – to advocating for vastly more radical interventions in the form of hormones, powerful chemical compounds, and surgical mutilation?

The simple answer is the exaltation of the individual over the family, even over established scientific fact. A minor can be talked into thinking that they would be happier as the opposite sex long before they might understand what it means to be a man or a woman, long before they can grasp the long term implications of such radical and irreversible medical interventions. These things can even happen without parental consent and increasingly are happening despite parental opposition. Boys and girls incompetent to enter into a legal contract, enter into marriage, to enter the military, to get a tattoo, to vote, to drink beer, and so on are somehow competent to make an even more momentous choice to become something they can never be? Absurd. Demonic. Inexcusable. But this is exactly what happens when a culture becomes estranged from God. Estranged from God, how easily we begin to think that we are gods.

- Fr Booth