

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

November 30th/December 1st 2024: First 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, 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 a.m., 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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Lois Pruitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from December 1st until December 7th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of John & Matilda Katona from December 8th until December 14th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Instead of coffee and donuts there will be a potluck brunch following the 9:00 Mass.

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

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: December 8th falls on a Sunday this year. In the English Mass, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9th. For the Latin Mass, the Immaculate Conception remains on Sunday, December 8th. For the English Mass, Monday, remains a Holy Day of obligation. For the Latin Mass, the obligation for the Immaculate Conception is fulfilled by attending Mass on Sunday.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via catholiccharitiesbhm.org. The donations remain in the diocese, supporting charitable outreach and several diocesan offices. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$25,410, which is about 91% of our goal.

PERPETUAL ADORATION: Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood is inviting people to come and adore our Lord in the Eucharist. They have had 24/7/365 Eucharistic Adoration for over 30 years. If you are interested in adoring Jesus in the Eucharist, please contact Bo Lovell at (205) 965-3041.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: 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, Joshua Callahan, Michael Masny, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$10,565 and \$110 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 7-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Nov 30:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Philip Schnur (by the Schnur Family)
Sun, Dec 1:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Father Anthony Ritter (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	† Joe C. Zito (by Phillip Mangina)
	10:45 a.m.	Pro Populo
Mon, Dec 2	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Felicity Henderson (by the Duvall Family)
Tues, Dec 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Fisher Deblieux (by the Duvall Family)
Wed, Dec 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Joseph Hahn (by the Hall Family)
Thur, Nov 5:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Julia Ayers (by the Hall Family)
Fri, Dec 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
	6:30 p.m.	Special intention for Sidney Pace Kelly & Family (by Richard & Barbara Juneau
Sat, Dec 7:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Victoria Messina & Family (by the Hahn Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Virginia Elmer & Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Dec 8:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Jake Heiserman Family (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Sandra Lehmann (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Phillip McCarty, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Debbie Booth, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Beverly Scroggins, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, 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 Advent	Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:4-6,8-11, Lk 3:1-6
7:30 a.m. Immaculate Conception	Prov 8:22-35, Lk 1:26-28
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent	Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:4-6,8-11, Lk 3:1-6
10:45 a.m. Immaculate Conception	Prov 8:22-35, Lk 1:26-28

The End is Nay, or is it Nigh?

In Advent the Church directs our attention into the future before we contemplate the events of the past. Many get this wrong. All too often people see Advent as a semi-festive season culminating in the near-term future event of Christmas. Many parishes will have ‘Advent trees’ and/or ‘Advent wreaths’ that mimic their Christmas counterparts, with the exception of having violet decorations. Yes, there is an Advent wreath, not many, but there is no such thing as an ‘Advent tree.’ The purpose of these wreaths and trees is to give a foretaste of Christmas, keeping people’s focus on December 25th rather than the event Church wants us to contemplate in the first part of Advent.

The future event that the Church asks us to consider, which more and more people are happy to avoid, is the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. Most people do not want to admit that there will be an end. But there will be an end whether we like it or not. The Old Testament hints that the world will end. Jesus is much more explicit. For example, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man”* (Mt 24:35-39). There are other examples as well, none of which present a happy picture of the end. This gets more explicit in the Book of Revelation: *“I heard a loud voice speaking from the temple to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the seven bowls of God’s fury upon the earth.’ The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth. Festering and ugly sores broke out on those who had the mark of the beast or worshiped its image. The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea. The sea turned to blood like that from a corpse; every creature living in the sea died. The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water. These also turned to blood”* (Rev 16:1-4).

The end is an unpleasant concept, but it is certain. It is even certain from a scientific perspective. The world will end because the sun becomes a red giant, much much larger than its current size, and the earth will first be burned to a cinder before being consumed by the sun. Or the earth will be hit with a comet or an asteroid, killing all life on earth. Or the sun will shower the earth with a massive solar flare, a coronal mass ejection, that ends civilization as we know it. Or a gamma ray burst from within the Milky Way galaxy, perhaps caused by the impact of two stars, might hit the earth destroying the ozone layer and frying all life on earth. Or we can cause our own demise by war, manmade pandemic, social breakdown, or the collapse of the ecosystem through the extinction of pollinators or some other key element of the food chain.

Likewise, we are no strangers to the alarmist doomsday scenarios that have been foisted upon us since the 1970s: global cooling and the coming ice age, overpopulation, nuclear winter, depletion of the ozone layer, deforestation, mass extinctions with claims of hundreds of species going extinct every day, global warming, climate change, and so on. While we are familiar with these popular doomsday predictions, they all share the same characteristic: they are all avoidable if we cease doing this or we begin doing that. The truth is, the world will end at some point in the future, perhaps the distant future, and there is nothing we can do to stop it. Yes, we might cause the end, but we can’t prevent its eventuality any more than we can prevent the sun from consuming the earth.

So, whether we like it or not, the world will end. It is a matter of when and how. Jesus assures us that it will happen at an unknown time in the future and challenges us to be ready, *“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man”* (Lk 21:34-36).

- Fr Booth