

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 1st/February 2nd 2025: Presentation of the Lord (English)
Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (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 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: Edward Von Hagel, Sr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 2nd to February 8th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Colt Hull from February 9th until February 15th.

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

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on February 7th 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.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2025: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS for 2024 have been mailed out.

FIRST COMMUNION: We tentatively scheduled our First Communion on March 30th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be announced.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT: The Office of Vocations is hosting a Priesthood Discernment Weekend at Casa Maria Retreat Center from February 7th- 9th. Father Andrew Gutierrez from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans will lead this weekend of prayer, talks, and fellowship for men discerning a call to priesthood. Father Wyman Vintson, Vicar for Vocations, will be present and available to answer questions about discernment, the application process, and seminary life. This weekend experience is for men ages 18-35. The event is free, but registration is required at <https://bhmdiocese.org/discernment-weekend>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$28,035 and thus exceeding our goal.

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.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6943 and \$120 was given for the Preservation Fund.

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, Feb 1:	8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
	4:00 p.m.	† Normand Conrad Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Feb 2:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Sterling & Jill Caudle (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Feb 3	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Bill & Judy Donellen (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Feb 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Feb 5:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Feb 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Brendan Preiss (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Feb 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Lucy Yaeger (by the Donellan Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special intention for Michael Blackstone, Jr. (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Feb 8:	4:00 p.m.	† Normand Gagnon (by the Lang Family)
Sun, Feb 9:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Gina McGinn (by the Lang Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Normand Gagnon (by Alan & Pam Olson)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Grace Hill, 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, 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, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, 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.	5 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 6:1-2,3-8, 1Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11
7:30 a.m.	5 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30
9:00 a.m.	5 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 6:1-2,3-8, 1Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11
10:45 a.m.	5 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30

Presented and Purified

The essence of today's feast is twofold. One aspect is focused on Jesus, and another on the Blessed Virgin. And both are applications of the Law of Moses. Applying to Jesus, every firstborn boy was to be redeemed: "*Consecrate to me all the first-born; whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine*" (Ex 13:2). The book of Numbers explains this consecration: "*And [the boy's] redemption price you shall fix at five shekels in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary... But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shall burn their fat as an offering by fire, a pleasing odor to the Lord*" (Num 18:16-17).

Because of the 10th plague against Egypt, every firstborn creature belonged to God. Therefore, firstborn cows, sheep, and goats were all sacrificed to the Lord because they belonged strictly to the Lord. Of course, firstborn boys were not to be sacrificed but redeemed, that is purchased back from God. When it comes to Mary, again according to the Law of Moses, she had to be purified on the 40th day. This purification involved the sacrifice of a lamb and a pigeon or turtledove, or if the family was poor, two pigeons or turtledoves would suffice.

This twofold nature is expressed in Jesus' Presentation, where we hear that *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*" (Lk 2:23-24). The consecration pertains to Jesus and the sacrifice of the two birds applies to Mary's purification. But what is missing here? Jesus is certainly presented to the Lord in the Temple, part of the consecration process. Mary is certainly purified by the sacrifice of a "*pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*". What is missing is the redemption price for Jesus as the firstborn. At no point is there any hint that Jesus was being bought back from God. So what does this mean? Exodus gives us some insight: "*You shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstlings of your cattle that are males shall be the Lord's. Every firstling of an ass you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every first-born of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of bondage. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both the first-born of man and the first-born of cattle. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb; but all the first-born of my sons I redeem'" (Ex 13:12-15).*

That Jesus was not redeemed is significant. Firstborn unclean animals like an ass were to be killed or redeemed. Firstborn men likewise were to be redeemed but never killed. Firstborn clean animals were to be sacrificed. Since Jesus was not redeemed by Joseph and Mary, this suggests that His firstborn status was special. Thus, Jesus is not like other men, He is not redeemed because the Father sent him as a gift to us, and He was uniquely clean from any stain of sin. In other words, the lack of redemption paid by Joseph and Mary points to Jesus being a sacrifice. He is the Lamb of God.

Should this surprise us? Not really. After all, one of the wisemen brought myrrh, which was a burial spice. In describing Joseph of Arimathea's burial of Jesus, John's Gospel tells us that "*Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom*" (Jn 19:39-40).

So, at Jesus' birth, His sacrifice on the cross was signaled. Forty days later, the lack of a redemption price paid also suggested that Jesus was to offer His life as a uniquely holy sacrifice for us. What kind of sacrifice? A sacrifice that brings about our redemption. Joseph did not buy Jesus back from God so that Jesus might redeem us from the bondage of our sins, freeing us not from the house of Pharaoh in Egypt but from Satan's hellish house. Thus, today's feast is not the commemoration of an empty outdated ritual, but stands as a sign for us, a hopeful sign of our redemption. -Fr Booth