

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

January 24th/January 25th: 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
3rd Sunday After Epiphany (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.

NOTICE ON CHECKS: Please make out all checks to Blessed Sacrament or Blessed Sacrament Church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Chester Olson, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 25th to January 31st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Sr. from February 1st until February 7th.

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

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2026: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be mailed out early next week.

FIRST COMMUNION: First Communion is scheduled for Laetare Sunday, March 15th at the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT WEEKEND: The Office of Vocations is hosting a Priesthood Discernment Weekend from February 20th to 22nd at Casa Maria Retreat Center. Father Kurt R. Young, Vice-Rector at 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. Please register for this event at: <https://bhmdiocese.org/discernment-weekend>

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Pledge Card in the mail, if not you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of January 23rd, we have \$24,075 pledged.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6029 and \$295 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is large backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. No exceptions. The Mass Intentions for this week date from April 20th.

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

Sat, Jan 24:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Sandy Somarakis (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Jan 25:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Laura Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Michelle Smith (by Monica Duvall)
Mon, Jan 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jan King (by the Duvall Family)
Tues, Jan 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Nicholas Clement Henderson (by the Duvall Family)
Wed, Jan 28:	*8:30 a.m.	† Kevin Penney (by Diane Penney)
Thur, Jan 29:	*8:30 a.m.	† Tripp Williams (by Diane Penney)
Fri, Jan 30:	*8:30 a.m.	† Charlie Garrett (by Diane Penney)
Sat, Jan 31:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for the Hill Family (by Jonathan & Gina Gagnon)
Sun, Feb 1:	7:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Mary Lynne Williams, Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, Fr Timothy Gahan, George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, 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, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, 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.	4 th Sunday of Ordinary Time
7:30 a.m.	Septuagesima
9:00 a.m.	4 th Sunday of Ordinary Time
10:45 a.m.	Septuagesima

Zeph 2:3,3:12-13, 1Cor 1:26-31, Mt 5:1-12
1Cor 9:24-10:5, Mt 20:1-16
Zeph 2:3,3:12-13, 1Cor 1:26-31, Mt 5:1-12
1Cor 9:24-10:5, Mt 20:1-16

Misguided and Misplaced Zeal

After St Stephen was stoned to death, something to which Saul approved, we find out that “*Saul, meanwhile, was trying to destroy the church; entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment. Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains*” (Acts 8:3,9:1-2). The pre-conversion Paul was zealous for his Jewish faith even to the point of kidnapping, violence, and murder. Going after Christians in Jerusalem was not enough. Damascus was over 130 miles from Jerusalem. Such was Paul’s zeal.

Paul’s zeal, however, was misplaced and misguided. He was among the first anti-Christian zealots but he was certainly not the last. We have had and will continue to have individuals “*breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord*” until the end of time. The Romans were hardly slouches when it came to persecuting Christians, but they too are but one government or state among many bent upon destroying the faith. Various political leaders also stand out as persecutors of the Church. There were various Roman caesars, Mohamed, barbarian kings, Holy Roman Emperors such as Henry IV and Henry V, King Henry VIII of England and his successors, Robespierre, Garibaldi, Marx, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, and a host of others desiring the end of Christianity. The persecution has hardly come to an end but it has taken various forms. In Africa, Asia, and especially the Middle East it continues to be violent and bloody. Despite the bloodiness, it fails to make the news, perhaps because burned churches and murdered Christians are not newsworthy. In the West, it has been more subtle and subversive with battle lines drawn in the culture, the classroom, and often in the courts. Again, anti-Christian bias, especially anti-Catholic bias, is un-newsworthy. In fact, it is de rigueur. Antisemitism is the only other form of bigotry that outpaces anti-Catholicism.

That the attacks against the faith are not yet as bloody as elsewhere hardly means that the persecution is not serious. For example, the British have instituted draconian ‘hate speech’ laws resulting in 30 to 40 arrests a day, 12,000 arrests annually. Germany is not as aggressive with about 3500 arrests annually, but Russia and China, no friends of free speech, have about 600 and 1500 annual arrests for speech ‘violations’, respectively. With regard to the democracies of Britain and Germany as well as the thug-ocracies of Russia and China, they differ in the types of speech that are permitted and proscribed, but there is agreement that anti-Christian speech is tolerated. Anti-islam speech in Russia and China is acceptable, but just the opposite in Britain and other western countries. The hypocrisy displayed by the Europeans regarding free speech is stunning and likely headed our way.

The founding fathers certainly understood that free speech was essential for a free nation. They understood free exercise of religion to be essential as well. It is no coincidence that both freedom of speech and freedom of religion are listed in the First Amendment of the Constitution along with freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. Sadly, we have seen freedom of assembly encroach upon freedom of religion when dozens of protestors disrupted a church service last Sunday. The protestors entered into the Cities Church in Minneapolis threatening and intimidating the parishioners. The uninvited activists were asked to leave but didn’t. They thought they had the right to assemble on private property and to terrorize the parishioners for not thinking and acting the way the protestors thought they ought to think and act. No doubt they thought they were exercising their right to free speech even though they did so at the expense of the parishioners right to free exercise of religion.

We will likely see more of this sort of thing. Self-righteous activists will see it as their duty to persecute Christians and will insist that it is their right, nay their duty, to do so. Had those protestors confessed that they got carried away and regretted their actions, it is quite likely that that congregation would have been quick to forgive. But such a confession won’t be forthcoming. Like the pre-conversion St Paul, the persecutors of the faith have great zeal, zeal that is misplaced and quite misguided.

-Fr Booth