

Advent

A Time to Prepare

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of
Advent



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Friday

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Office Manager

Yvonne Tawfik-Mestre

Phone:

954-564-1010 Ext. 9

Fax: 954-566-0301

Email Address:

bscc1701@bellsouth.net

Maintenance Coordinator

John Strawser

Website/Media

BlessedSacramentRCC.org

Kevin Lawson

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil

4:00 pm

Sunday

9:00 am & 10:45 am

Daily - Tuesday - Friday

8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm



Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church All Are Welcome Here

1701 East Oakland Park Blvd. Oakland Park Florida 33334

Our Pastor

Reverend Robert F. Tywoniak,
M.S.W., C.S.W.M

Assisting

Deacon Dan Blaha (Retired)

Lead Musician

Daniel J. Perez

Baptism for Infants and Preschool Children under 7 years old

At Baptism, infants and preschool children are initiated into the Christian community and begin a life-long journey as a committed disciple of Christ. Since the child cannot make this commitment on their own, the parent who requests Baptism states that they wish to pass on the faith in which they believe and live. Parents wishing to have their infant or preschooler Baptized are required to attend Baptism Preparation. This gives them the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Baptism and to have their questions answered concerning the Sacrament of Baptism and the ceremony. In order to begin preparing for their child's Baptism, parents are asked to contact the parish office at 954-564-1010 prior to the anticipated birth or adoption process. We wish to celebrate this joyful time with you!

Marriage

Blessed Sacrament parish wishes to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage through prayer and action. For this reason, guidelines have been established for marriage preparation by the Archdiocese of Miami. This is not done to create obstacles, but to increase the opportunity for a lasting, loving marriage in a society where divorce is prevalent. Couples should contact the parish office at 954-564-1010 at the time of their engagement to allow time to complete the necessary preparation.



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December 17 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 61: 1-2a, 10-11

Luke 1

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Gaudete, Rejoice!

I Am Not Jesus, but I Must Testify to Him

The passage we share from John's Gospel today caused me to reflect on my own vocation as a priest.

John the Baptist's role was to testify to the light. But he was not the light. John knew this and made it clear. "I am not the Christ." So who was he? What did he know to be his role?

John the Baptist was a voice. He was a voice crying out in the desert. He was making clear a path for the messiah who was about to appear on the earth. Indeed Jesus (John's cousin) was already on earth. His formal ministry had not yet begun. John's role was to make people aware of the messiah's presence.

I think of John's ministry in the following way. In show business, every headliner musical act has a warm-up act that comes before the main act. John is that act. He "warms up" the audience. The Jews knew by all the prophets a messiah was to come. But if Jesus were to just pop up on stage, would he have had any chance of being recognized? Someone had to testify to him! The messiah. So what is my role as a Christian and moreover as a Priest?

I must make ready the way for the Lord's Second Coming! We live in the End times now. Jesus is present to us in and through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit prepares us by leading and guiding us so that we will recognize Jesus if he should appear to us right now.

The Holy Spirit works through the community of faith, He works through each member in the community.

Each of us, myself included, is now the voice, especially as a priest who has received the sacrament of Holy Orders. I must formally preach the Word. I must awaken all of you who hear the promise of Jesus' second coming. As the scripture says, "the spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor...." I have the formal responsibility and authority to preach.

It is necessary for the Good News of the Lord be made known. God's Justice will happen especially for those who are downtrodden. What can I offer as guidance to all of you? Let us turn to St. Paul.

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul offers the components of what to do to be prepared to meet Jesus. He says, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks.... Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil." And so I offer Paul's works to you as my own.

It is my hope you will heed Paul's words as my own. Follow Paul's formula that you will be alert and awake to be ready for Jesus second coming. Jesus is already here. We rejoice that he has come the first time. The Holy Spirit makes him present. I guess now I am the voice. I am the warm up act. The main act is still to take the stage. I testify he is to come again!

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

ATTENTION! This year, Christmas Eve falls on Sunday making for an involved Liturgical Schedule. So, here it is:

Masses Celebrated for the Sunday Obligation

Saturday, December 23rd: 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24th: 9:00AM and 10:45AM

Masses Celebrated for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, December 24th: 4:00PM Vigil

11:00PM Mass During the Night

Monday, December 25th: 10:45AM Mass During the Day

Stewardship

Time, Talent Tithing

It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.

Attendance last week:	253
Tithes Collected:	\$4,941.00
Per Capita:	\$19.53
2nd Collection for Retirement	
Fund for Religious:	\$540.00
Immaculate Conception attendance:	91
Immaculate Conception Collection:	\$633.00
Per Capita:	\$6.96

Next week we will celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. For that occasion, PLEASE consider a special gift to the parish. In other words, make a more generous tithe than the normal Sunday tithe. We, the parish, depend on the Christmas and Easter collections to be large. These collections help to "balance the Books."

Things to know

Faith Formation

Respond to God's Intoxicating Promise RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Have you, an adult, ever been baptized? Have you been baptized into another Christian tradition but now need to become a full member of the Roman Catholic Church? Perhaps you were baptized in the Church but did not get to the point of receiving First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

The RCIA is the way for adults to do any and all of the above! Fr. Bob and Gregory would like to hear from you. They can sit

with you, listen to your story and explain how to bring you into the fullness of the practice of the Christian faith.

CLIP & SEND

I am interested in the RCIA. (Print)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

COMMUNITY

Bring Someone to Church With You!

In these difficult times people might be stressed and feel sad or even alone. Invite someone to Mass with you. He or she might enjoy the fellowship and the uplifted spirit of our celebrations. The person does not need to be Roman Catholic.

When you are on your social media, you may reach out, too. Just leave the suggestion to meet you at church this weekend.

Thursdays of Advent

Each Thursday evening of Advent we are gathering for special times in prayer. Each of the next Thursdays of Advent we will gather in the church at 7:00PM for an hour before the Blessed Sacrament. This week coming we will reconcile with the Lord through His Sacrament of Reconciliation. Make a point of participating in the Thursday Evenings of Advent (7:00PM)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK
Angiolina Armenti, Mary-Ellen Batocho, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Sasi Brauet, Ronald Gustinella, Richard & Cathy Harper, Dil Hatchett, Patrick Keough, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Luz Mercado, Fay Michael, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Paul Riley, Rick Steffan, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec 16 4:00 p.m.

Dan & Dil by Fr Bob
Fr. Dennis by Joanie

Sunday, Dec 17 9:00 a.m.

Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m.

† Benilde de Jesus Coelho
by Fernando Rodrigues
† Bill Crepage by Parish

Monday, Dec 18 No Mass

Tuesday, Dec 19 8:00 a.m.

† Shirley Sharkey
by Family
Fernando Santa
by Selma Cardona

Wednesday, Dec 20 8:00 a.m.

† Bernard & Eileen Flood
by Flood Family

Thursday, Dec 21 8 a.m.

† Leonard Kurzynski by Chris
Friday, Dec 22 8:00 a.m.
† Robert D. Joyce
by Judy Dempsey

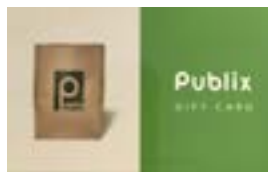
Saturday, Dec 23 4:00 p.m.

† Shirley Sharkey by Family
† Yolanda Caraballo by Ronald
Rodriguez & John McDonald

Sunday, Dec 14 9:00 a.m.

Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m.
Blessed Sacrament Parish
4:00 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Parish
11:00 p.m.

**Publix Gift Cards!
Donate Gift Cards
In \$10.00 Dollar Increments.**



It is that time of year. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society needs Publix Gift Cards donated in Ten Dollar increments. This permits them to provide food for people for the holidays and throughout the year.

We serve people of many cultures who live in many different circumstances. The cards permit people to obtain the food they eat according to their particular culture. Further, many people live in circumstances where they cannot cook. Thus, they may purchase food that is already prepared.

The Publix Cards help us to provide supplemental foods to people with special needs. This is done throughout the year.

Thank you for making this important donation.

Please put the cards in the Wooden SVDP Donation Boxes found in the foyer. You also may make out a check for the cards and we will purchase them.