

DECEMBER 1, 2024
THE FRIST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Office Manager
Yvonne Tawfik-Mestre
Phone:
954-564-1010 Ext. 9
Fax:954-566-0301
Email Address:
bscc1701@bellsouth.net
Maintenance Coordinator
Williams Alsina
Website/Media
Kevin Lawson
BSCC1701@gmail.com

Office Hours
Monday -Thursday
8:30 am - 3:30 pm
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8:30 am - 3:00 pm

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**BLESSED SACRAMENT
CATHOLIC PARISH**

"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
Music Director
Daniel J. Perez

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am & 10:45 am	Thursday evenings 6:30pm -7:00 pm
Daily: Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am	

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

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Psalm 25
1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2
Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Begin With the End

The new year of the Church begins today. As I always tell you, the new year for Christians does not begin January First. For those who know, the First Sunday of Advent begins a new cycle of scripture readings, prayers, celebrations and, hopefully, spiritual and moral growth. In three years' time we will have read through the Bible and wind up back here with the readings we read today. Yet, as we read today's readings, there is something that seems somewhat peculiar.

Luke's Gospel presents Jesus speaking of the end of salvation history. He speaks of the Parousia or "presence" or "arrival". That is, Jesus' coming glorified. The passage expresses this in dramatic fashion, hoping to get the attention of those who read it. It is not actually meant to instill trepidation. The scriptures exhort us to have faith in a final act of God that truly culminates human history. This might be the end of time on Earth but not the end of existence. Another way scriptures are at work here is expressing the "end" as *eschaton*.

More than meaning end as in no more time, *eschaton* refers to a new age. It speaks to the transformation of our world. With the coming of Jesus already, which we celebrate at Christmas, we actually are in the new age that has already begun. We are in the final age. This is Jesus's kingly reign. It is a present reality. Jesus reigns NOW through the presence of the Holy Spirit! This age is not something we are still waiting for.

Today's readings do exhort us to be alert for the moment when all salvation does come to a head, fulfillment. It will be a moment that will last for eternity when all will understand Love, God's Love and live in and by Love. All that God made known through the centuries will "make sense" to everyone. Those who still are "asleep" morally who wanted to live not loving but gaining earthly wealth and power alone will find the moment shocking. Perhaps they will say in realization, "those followers of Jesus were right all along." In His compassion, God will, perhaps, give them one more chance to say yes to Him. But why wait until then?

This year's gospel, the Gospel of Luke, is all about showing us the way to acceptance. Luke connects the many past moments of salvation history with moments in his own time. Then he makes clear these moments or patterns God has demonstrated and calls us to carry on

the cause of salvation history to the final moment. If we do, we will not be surprised at the time of culmination, the moment the fruit of love is ripe.

We will recognize the patterns God has made since Old Testament times to now. Throughout time, God has shown one most powerful pattern of His. God makes promises and He KEEPS them! Will we recognize the patterns?

This will be our task this year. Together as Church, we are to recognize the pattern of God as Luke guides us to see them. We will learn from them. Amazingly, we will develop our internal disposition toward salvation, living in God's Love, to the point our desire for it spills over from our souls. Let our love manifest itself in works of Justice that make others also see the great love of God. May no one be surprised at the realization of the presence of the New Age that has already begun.

Today we begin with the end.

Next Week's Readings
Second Sunday of Advent
Bar5:1-9; Phil1:4-6,8-11; Lk3:1-6

Mass for the
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, December 9th at 8am & 7pm.

The Season Of Advent!

Regulars here recall this is the New Year of the Church. It is not Christmas Season regardless of the advertisements or decorations in the stores and online.

It is a period of preparation to celebrate the first coming of Jesus the King and of preparation for His second coming.

Thus, as practicing Christians, we might prepare for Christmas by making decorations or buying gifts. HOWEVER, we DO NOT decorate the house as though it is already Christmas. We decorate in the spirit of this season of anticipation. Prepare an Advent Wreath and use light purple colors around the house.

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.

Numbers will be reported in next weeks bulletin

Next week's second collection is for Retirement Fund for Religious.

Parish Life

Advent Thursdays 7:00pm to 8:00pm

"Evenings With the Eucharist"

Thursday evening of Advent beginning with Dec. 5 at 7:00pm to 8:00pm. This popular parish spiritual event gives us the opportunity to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and to receive a spiritual reflection. Please be present. (Sunday School families and teachers are required to participate.)

This Thursday Evening 7:00pm

We will pause and reflect on our relationship with the Lord and with each other. Have we sinned by breaching our relationship with God and God's people? Then we will write our sins on a piece of paper, walk up to the priest who will silently read it and then give us absolution. Then, we will return home having made all things right with God and God's people.

Home Activity Getting the Children Ready for Jesus

During this Advent we will read from the Gospel of Luke. Luke gives us messages from God like, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" In other words, "Get ready for God".

As you get ready to celebrate Christmas day, remember that day is when we celebrate Jesus' first coming into our world in the flesh. In your household you might do many things to get ready for that day. You might even make a list of things to do: write spiritual greetings or Christmas Cards to friends and family members, prepare special food to eat on that day, go to choir rehearsal to sing for the Lord, prepare gifts, etc.

How about this list: Ask the family members to write five ways you all can get ready for Jesus at the Christmas celebration. Call it the, "**Get Ready for Jesus**" list. Hang it in the kitchen or another prominent place in the house. For example, you may put on the list, "Go to the Evenings With the Eucharist each Thursday evening at 7pm during Advent."

People without children may do this too!

Christmas Season Schedule

Nativity of the Lord

December 24th, Vigil Mass, 4:00pm
Mass During the Night, 11:00pm
December 25th, Mass During the Day,
10:45am

Weekend Liturgies

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 28th, Saturday Vigil Mass,
4:00pm
December 29th, Sunday Liturgies
9:00am, and 10:45am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(Secular New Year)
December 31st, Vigil, 4:00pm
January 1st, 10:45am

Weekend Liturgies

Epiphany of the Lord

January 4th, Saturday Vigil Mass,
4:00pm
January 5th, Sunday Liturgies
9:00am, 10:45am

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Angiolina Armenti, Mary Benive-
na, Carl Bocchino, Margarita Bogle,
Michael Bryant, Ronald Gustinella,
Richard & Cathy Harper, Dil Hatchett,
John Hunter, Patrick Keough, Doris
Lakso, John LaNeve, Gail Martin,
Sean Martin, Luz Mercado, Teresita
Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Austin R.,
Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass,
OSC, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff,
Monica Yassa, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 30

4:00pm Karina Valentin
by Selma Cardona
†Pasquale Catapano
by Elaine & Eric Hall

Sunday, December 1

9:00am †Joan M. Joyce
by Judy Dempsey
10:45am †Anthony C. Mazzurco Sr
by Mark Mazzurco
†Bernard & Shirley
Sharkey by Family

Monday December 2 NO MASS

Tuesday, December 3

8:00am Priests of the Archdiocese

Wednesday, December 4

8:00am Sick of the Parish

Thursday December 5

8:00am †Norman Pratis by Parish

Friday December 6

8:00am †Omar Cardona
by Selma Cardona

Saturday, December 7

4:00pm †Bob Moeller
by Bob & Patsy Fintak
†Gloria Pentangelo Jarvis
by John Shields

Sunday, December 8

9:00am Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45am †Carmela Dee
by Tom/Loretta Ledvina
& Glen/Rebecca Cline