

DECEMBER 25, 2024



The Nativity of the Lord

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

Friday

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"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

Christmas Season Schedule

December 25, Wednesday (Christmas Day): 10:45am

There will be NO Morning Mass on Thursday, December 26th.

December 31, Tuesday (New Year's Eve): 4:00pm

January 1, Wednesday (New Year's Day): 10:45am

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.

December 25, 2024

Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:1-6

Titus 3: 4-7

Luke 2: 1-14

A Special Presentation of the Story

Other than the celebration of the Lord's resurrection at Easter, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestation into our time and space. So, a blessed and holy Christmas to you!

If you are reading this column because you attended the Holy Mass in person, welcome to you. Thank you for keeping this day holy by coming to church to receive the Lord in His Word and Sacrament! If you are reading this on-line thank you for searching the Blessed Sacrament Parish site and taking a moment to pause in reflection. As pastor of this humble parish, I am edified you have participated in the Christmas feast.

The presider of the Liturgies of Christmas may choose from the many Scripture readings suggested for the Nativity of our Lord. Here are the ones I have selected for this year.

The first reading is Isaiah 9: 1-6. The passage from the Old Testament. It tells us God is lifting us up in spirit and in life. The second reading is from Titus 3: 4-7. This reading expounds on God's mercy toward us. Finally, the gospel proclamation is from Luke 2: 1-14. It tells the story. The passage ends with giving glory to God and praising the Lord for blessing with peace those who believe in Him. That is to say those who follow God's way experience fulness and fulfillment of life.

All around the world, the Church celebrates this moment of God's entrance into our lives. The parishes all read the Bible passages that pertain to the Nativity. Their pastors also chose the readings for their particular flocks. The priests preach reaching out to people hoping to gain attention to the salvation offered by God. Each preacher hopes to draw people in to being a steady participant, keeping holy the Lord's Day each weekend.

Here at Blessed Sacrament Parish, we have a unique approach to the Christmas homily. It is based on the many scriptures that are suggested for the Christmas celebration. However, the salvation story that is told by the scriptures is presented in a dramatic way. Each year, a different character from Scripture or tradition presents his reflection on the matter. One year it was the famed person from classic literature, Ebenezer Scrooge, A Christmas Carol. His was a story of redemption. In another year Saint Joseph gave a poignant reflection on his God given role in the birth of his stepson Jesus Christ.

This year is no different. An elf will visit and tell his story of salvation.

Now you will have to be present to hear the Elf explain his conversion in a personal way. But, let me give a brief explanation of the elf's story. Elves followed a path of development as characters over many, many generations of storytelling.

To start, Elves were mischievous, supernatural, small humanlike creatures found in European Folklore. The Scots and Scandinavian people believed they were real. Elves lived alongside humans, often invisibly.

Elves had magical power that was associated with causing illness and sexual threats. They could either help or hinder humans. The word Elf originally meant "white being." Nordic mythology associated elves with their gods. This too caused illness that could be associated with magic and beauty and seduction. Later on, the German mythology call them Zwerg or dwarf. They were hidden beings. The word "fairy" was associated with these creatures which is borrowed from the French.

In the early modern period, this would be from 1500 to 1700, people believed also that the elves lived invisibly alongside human communities. There were British Ballads written about them. The ballads told of the elves' attempts to seduce and abduct human characters. You might think of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Then, in modern popular culture, there could be a romantic notion about elves, too.

Christmas elves are relatively recent. They were popularized during the late Nineteenth Century. In the Twentieth century they entered into "high fantasy." This is very much seen in the works of J.R.R. Tolkien who wrote stories about redemption based on the teachings of Christianity. Tolkien also made elves the size of humans. Think of the Hobbit. So, in time, good elves show up in literature. This brings the discussion to elves in Christian literature.

Many surviving written texts about elves throughout time were produced by Christians. German speaking people passed on stories in Christian culture. Scholars have studied the relationship between beliefs in elves and Christian cosmology. These studies took place in early times and in modern research.

Historical research shows three main approaches to the integration of elves into Christian cosmology (the study of development). 1). Elves were identified with demons of the Judeo-Christian Mediterranean tradition. The word elf was used as a gloss for "Satan."



The Meaning Behind The Song

The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

The Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" may sound silly and contrived to many of us. But it actually had its origins in religious symbolism - and with a serious purpose.

It dates from a time of religious persecution. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a kind of secret catechism that one could sing in public without fear of arrest - a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact.

The song can be taken at two levels of interpretation - the surface meaning, or the hidden meaning known only to the Christians involved. Each element is a code word for a religious truth.

One partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

Four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, and mercy.

Eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

From here on, the order is different from the original song!

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

<http://forums.catholic.com/showthread.php?t=404279>

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Parish Life

Thus, "elf" was used as an added word for Satan. 2). In Medieval Iceland, elves were based on angels and demons of Christian cosmology. 3). They were found in medieval and modern English, German and Scandinavian prayers. Also, they were used in stories to politically subvert the dominance of the Church. Now, what about the elf that shows up in the homily presentation today?

The Elf of Cherry Creek has been around for many generations. He will tell you he watched the church building be built. Elf also tells his experience of doing mischief in the neighborhood. In fact, it was when he was about to "mess up" a local family's celebration when he was confronted by good elves, or elves of the light.

The elves of the light thwart Elf's attempt to do his evil on this poor family. The good elves were present, too, in the same house to provide a nice Christmas celebration to this church going family. The elves of the light turn the elf of the dark around by putting him into a position to have to see the Faith of the poor family. The good elves actually turned Elf into a Christmas ornament and hung him on the family tree. From there he saw the family worship the child Jesus and His parents.

Well, this was a conversion point for Elf. He too came over to the light. His conversion released him from his stasis as an ornament. Now, as one of newfound Faith in Jesus and the Holy Family, Elf went on to doing good with all the other elves of the light.

Now, celebrate the Christmas Liturgy and see how Elf unfolds his story in the homily.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Make a good Christmas donation (tithe) to the parish that is beyond the usual weekend one. We depend on the Christmas and Easter collections to put the parish in a positive place financially. We still have other repairs to do. In all justice, we also need to provide our employees with a raise in their salaries.

Visitors, we are glad you have come here to this specific Feast of the Church. Please donate a substantial amount of money as a gift to those of us who work hard to minister to you during your visit. Your donation is much needed and appreciated. Just think of how much it would cost you to buy lunch for each person in your group at one of our fine eating establishments in town.

Thank you so very much!
Fr. Bob

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31st (Tues): No morning Mass
4:00pm Vigil Mass

January 1st (Wed): 10:45am Mass

January 2nd (Thurs): NO MASS/Office is Closed

January 3rd (Fri): 8:00am Mass / No Adoration

January 9th (Thurs): 7:00pm -Scripture Sharing begins again

Season of Lent

March 5th: Ash Wednesday. The Parish Mission begins. 7:00pm Mass & Distribution of Ashes.

March 6th 7:00pm (Thursday) The Mission continues with Reconciliation & Preaching.

March 7th 7:00pm (Friday): Sacramental Anointing & Preaching. Y.G. Nygthstorm & Sister Peg Albert are our guest speakers this year.

Thursdays of Lent 7:00pm. Scriptural Stations of the Cross.
Reconciliation is available from 6:30 to 7:00pm.

Holy Week

April 17th Holy Thursday, at 7:00pm. Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 18th Friday of the Passion of the Lord, at 7:00pm
Good Friday Service

April 19th Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm

April 20th Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.
Mass at 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.,
Fr. Robert (Bob) Traupman, Renette
Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC,
Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Monica
Yassa, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Wednesday, December 25

10:45am Blessed Sacrament Parish

Thursday, December 26

NO MASS

Friday, December 27

8:00am †Rene P. Llerandi
by Perez Family

Saturday, December 28

4:00pm †Anthony Sanfilipo
by Family
†Gloria Pentangelo Jarvis
by Margot

Sunday, December 29

9:00am Lalewicz Family
by Daughter

10:45am †Rene P. Llerandi by
Perez Family
†Bernard & Shirley
Sharkey by Family

Monday, December 30

NO MASS

Tuesday December 31

4:00pm †Daniel Alfaro Tobar
by Friends

Wednesday, January 1

10:45am Blessed Sacrament Parish
Thursday, January 2

NO MASS | OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, January 3

8:00am For the Sick of the Parish

Saturday, January 4

4:00pm †Arturo Cuan by Family

Sunday, January 5

9:00am Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45am Dan Brommer & Family
by Anita
Laura, Ron, & Sam
by Anita

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