



DECEMBER 22, 2024
THE FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

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Monday -Thursday

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Friday

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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

Christmas Season Schedule

December 24, Tuesday (Christmas Eve):

4:00pm and 11:00pm

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 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4
Psalm 80
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

How Prophetic Are We??

"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."

We pray this refrain as the response in today's Liturgy. We pray it as we try to maintain our faith in God in the midst of all the cultural pull toward consumerism. Blessed are you as you make this struggle! The glitz of the commercialized Christmas belies the misunderstanding of God's wish for humankind. This misunderstanding is addressed in the Letter to the Hebrews.

Jesus came as a member of the chosen people. He did not come to sacrifice as in the old human notion of such. Rather, Jesus came to do God the Father's will. Sacrifices might satisfy the people who offer them. However, they have little to do with what God hopes for from humanity. Love and obedience to God's will comprise the supreme sacrifice. Obedience promises no earthly security. What it does promise is union with God. God chooses to share life with humanity which He made in His own image. To recognize this truth is prophetic.

In the Gospel story, Elizabeth is much a prophet. She was attuned to God. She interpreted the signs of the times and she understood the significant impact her child and Mary's child, those in their wombs, would have on all human history. Elizabeth knew God was a part of all that was happening. She also knew many would come to believe and indeed many had faith in God already.

Elizabeth, in the original translation, says, "Blessed is the one who believes." That is, Mary is not alone in believing. Mary is the prime example of one who believes. Moreover, Mary gives herself over to God's will.

The prophet (Micah), the psalmist, the author of Hebrews, and Mary and Elizabeth are in service to all of us as they serve God the Father. They see the signs of God's workings in the events of their lives and the lives of all around them in all of time. Thus, the question must be asked. How prophetic are we, you?! Do you observe the signs of God in the moments of your life and of those around you? Do you "put the pieces together" to discern the true path of life as desired by God? Do you truly resist the consumer culture and moreover give witness to the true meaning of Christmas, Christ among us? Does your witness show up even in how and when you decorate for the holiday??

Have courage!! Know that God the Father loves you and has shown it in His Son, Jesus Christ. God bless you in your continued struggle to maintain and live by faith.

This week we will celebrate the birth of the child Mary was carrying. See you all then.

Next Week's Readings

Vigil. Is62:1-5;Acts13:16-17,22-25;Mt.1:1-25
Night. Is.9:1-6;Ti2:11-14;Lk.2:1-14
Day. Is52:7-10;Heb.1:1-6;Jn.1:1-18

A Reflection by Pope Francis

In the life of every Christian, there is an experience of a personal encounter with Jesus Christ who called us to follow him and share in his mission. We must learn to treasure in our hearts the living memory of that call, when Jesus passed my way, gazed at me with mercy and asked me to follow him. Try to revive the memory of that moment when his eyes met yours, the moment when he made you realize that he loved you. But do I remember it? Have I forgotten it? Have I gone off on paths that made me forget it? Lord, help me, for you know that I want to encounter you and to let myself be embraced by your mercy.

Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent season in expectation of the Lord. For Advent is indeed a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast of Christmas, but also, each one, in our hearts. The merciful Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!

Bring someone with you to Mass on Christmas Day! Make it a gift to one another and to the Lord.

**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:	272
Tithes Collected:	\$6,010.00
Per Capita:	\$22.10

Christmas Tithes

Important to the Life of this Parish

Remember, at Christmas, we donate our tithes on Christmas day and at the Sunday Liturgies. So, on Christmas day and the Sunday right after Christmas day we place our financial donation in the collection.

The Christmas collection of tithes is so important to the survival of this parish as we strive to serve each other year after year.

Please be Just in your tithing this year.
Thanks.

Parish Life

GIFT SHOP NEWS!

Come see the new items in the Gift Shop.
We have new books and ornaments.
The 2025 Mass Intention book is now available in the
Gift Shop as well.

The Twelve Days of Christmas 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>

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Angiolina Armenti, Mary Benivegna, 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

Saturday, December 21

4:00pm For All Parish Volunteers
For the Work of the
St. Vincent de Paul Society

Sunday, December 22

9:00am Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45am †Robert D. Joyce
by Judy Dempsey
†Bernard & Shirley
Sharkey by Family

Monday December 23 NO MASS

Tuesday, December 24

4:00pm Blessed Sacrament Parish
11:00pm Blessed Sacrament Parish

Wednesday, December 25

10:45am Blessed Sacrament Parish

Thursday December 26 NO MASS/OFFICE CLOSED

Friday December 27

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

Saturday, December 28

4:00pm †Anthony Sanfilippo
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