
Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - October 18, 2024

For a number of years now, a frequently asked and always dreaded question in parish life every December is “What time is midnight Mass?” Even before 2011 when *Midnight Mass* officially changed to *Mass at Night* in the Roman Missal, many parishes including Saint Peter’s in Rome & our Co-Cathedrals began this celebration at 10:30 pm.

This news is unwelcome by some, but no surprise to many. Blessed Sacrament Parish will no longer have Christmas Midnight Mass. The decision to drop the Midnight Mass was discussed at Staff, Liturgy Committee, and Pastoral Council meetings. The fact is that Midnight Mass has disappeared from many, if not most parish churches due to the reality that Catholics have clearly indicated they prefer to worship on Christmas Eve the late afternoon, early evening, or Christmas morning. Here is a summary of the discussions that took place, but I learned long ago *Reason doesn't matter when it is an affair of the heart*. Nevertheless . . .

Even before Covid, the attendance here at Blessed Sacrament’s Midnight Mass was growing steadily less. The attendance post-Covid has been only about 45. About half of those present were there because of one of our several Liturgical Ministries: reader, server, Eucharist, greeter/usher, cantor, choir member, and musician. It seems that the overwhelming majority of folks have chosen other Masses. It is a more prudent use of our Vocal Choir and ministers to serve at another Christmas Mass. Besides, a mostly empty church with a few non-ministerial parishioners widely scattered would appear to be sad to many people

There is an overwhelming consensus by the Liturgy Committee, Pastoral Council, and Staff that our parish will be better served by pouring our energies into joyful celebrations at 4:00pm and 7:00pm on Christmas Eve and at 10:00am on Christmas morning. I understand why some parishioners will be disappointed and we will provide information of any local parish with a midnight Mass.

Fr. Paul

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Parish website	https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org	
Faith in West Virginia	https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/	
This Sunday’s Readings	https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102724.cfm	
Wednesday Bible Handout	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/october-23-2024/?wpdmdl=2115&refresh=67126522b83841729258786	
This Sunday’s Bulletin	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/october-20-2024/?wpdmdl=2116&refresh=6712660382d871729259011	

Headlines and Happenings

OUR BISHOP MARK BRENNAN will celebrate with us this Saturday's 5pm Mass. Bishop Mark agreed to become our new Bishop after the trials and tribulations created by his predecessor. His gentle and humble ministry as our shepherd continues to make a difference. Please come and join in this special liturgy.

OUR PARISHIONER FATHER BILL PETRO will celebrate the 56th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with us at the Sunday 9am mass this weekend. When Father Bill is not substituting in a parish within the diocese, he regularly joins us at the 9am Mass. He is a regular at the Saturday Morning men's Bible Sharing Group. This past Monday he spoke about the Kingdom of God to those coming to Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. All are welcome.

Give thanks to God by giving Thanksgiving Dinner to a neighbor. Our **FOOD DRIVE** is underway to help restock the Coalburg Food Pantry and provide dinner for some 25 local families. A shopping list is available in the gathering space and weekly bulletin.

PLEASE NOTE that beginning on Nov. 2 **SATURDAY MASS** will begin at **4PM**.

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES

November 1

All Saints Day Masses at Noon and 6pm - Holy Day of obligation

November 2 - All Souls Day Mass at 10 am

November 28

Thanksgiving Day Mass at 1 pm followed by dinner.

December 24

Christmas Masses at 4pm and 7pm

December 25

Christmas Mass at 10 am followed by brunch.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses Holy Day of obligation

December 31 – 4pm and January 1 at noon

Additional Notes

- Communal Reconciliation Service - December 8th at 3:00 pm
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception – December 8th carries no obligation, since the Feast is moved to Monday.
- Blue Christmas Service - December 15th at 3:00 pm
- Epiphany Concert – Friday, January 3rd at 6:00pm

POEM In the Silence

Holy silence
Holy tears
Holy questions
Holy fears
We wait in confusion,
We ask our "whys"
We do not understand...

In the silence
We look to You, Holy One,
For hope,
For endurance,
For promises resurrected
In hearts and lives.

We sit
In our vigils and questions
Knowing that You
Are faithful and You
Are enough.
Amen.
— Deborah Vaughn

MYSTIC MORSELS

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.
— Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Charity unites us to God. There is nothing mean in charity, nothing arrogant. Charity knows no schism, does not rebel, does all things in concord. In charity all the elect of God have been made perfect.
— Saint Clement (First Century)

CARBONATED GRACE

Finding one of her students making faces at others on the playground, Ms. Smith stopped to gently reprimand the child. Smiling sweetly, the Sunday school teacher said: "Johnny, when I was a little girl, I was told if that I made ugly faces, it would freeze and I would stay like that." Little Johnny looked up and replied, "Well, Ms. Smith, you can't say you weren't warned."