



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD of JESUS PARISH

*A Roman Catholic Personal Parish
for the Extraordinary Form
in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.*

**Third Sunday of
Advent “Gaudete”**

December 17, A.D. 2023

Mass Schedule

Sundays: 8am, 11am
Monday: 12 Noon
Tuesday: 12 Noon & 7pm
Wednesday through Friday: 12 Noon
1st Friday of Month: 12 Noon & 7pm
Saturday: 9am

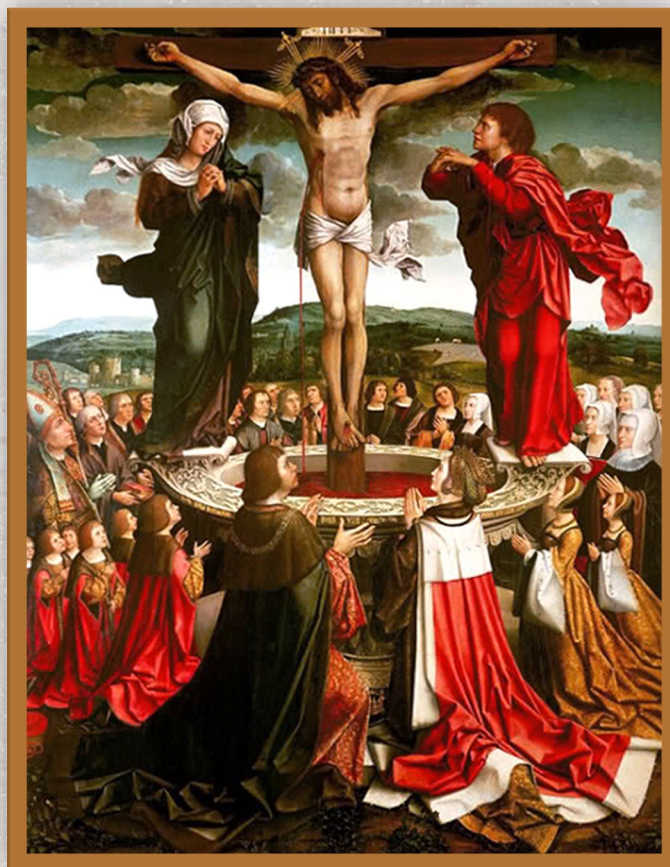
Confession Schedule

Sundays: 7-8am; 10-11am
Monday-Friday: 11:15-11:45am
Tuesdays: also 6:15-6:45pm
Saturday: 8-8:45am

Please consult the weekly bulletin for modifications to the schedule.

Clergy & Staff

Canon William Avis, Pastor
pastor@mpboj.com
Canon Ross Bourgeois, Parochial Vicar
canon.bourgeois@institute-christ-king.org
Geraldine Redic, Business Manager/Safe Environment
businessmanager@mpboj.com
Gail Buchman, Administrative Assistant
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Charles R. Friend, Budgets & Financial Reporting
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music@mpboj.com
Jeannine M. Goelz, Office Coordinator
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Jack Aul, Project Superintendent
projectsuper@mpboj.com
George Wright, ERT/Usher Coordinator
usher-ert@mpboj.com
Bill Redic, Catechism Administrator
catechism@mpboj.com



Contact Information

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-2pm
3250 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Phone 412-761-1508
Fax: 412-761-6454
Email: office@mpboj.com
Website: mostpreciousbloodparish.org or mpboj.com

Pennsylvania Childline (report suspected child abuse)
1-800-932-0313
Protection of Children and Youth (diocesan office)
1-888-808-1235



Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Veritatem Facientes In Caritate—Furthering the Truth in Charity

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, December 17, 2023 *Infant King Novena begins*

Third Sunday of Advent, 1st Class—Gaudete Sunday

8AM LMO + Alex J. Olshanski (Judy Callaghan)

11AM HM *Pro populo*

Processional: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (pg. 86)

Recessional: On Jordan's Bank (pg. 82)

Monday, December 18, 2023

Advent Feria, 2nd Class—Violet/Rose

12 PM LM + James Erdesky (David Witter)

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Advent Feria, 2nd Class—Violet/Rose

12PM LM Justin & Melinda Novak (M/M Jeffrey Novak)

7PM LM + James Buonopane (Family)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Ember Wednesday, 2nd Class—Violet

12PM LM + Talarico & Capitani Families

(Judy & Lou Talarico)

Thursday, December 21, 2023

St. Thomas the Apostle, 2nd Class —Red*

12PM LMO Deceased Relatives of Brian & Laura Hirth

(Brian & Laura Hirth)

Friday, December 22, 2023

Ember Friday, 2nd Class—Violet

12PM LM + T. Earl Mousseau (Diane & Jim Mousseau)

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Ember Saturday, 2nd Class—Violet

9AM LM + Patricia Kimball O'Connell (O'Connell Family)

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Vigil of Christmas, 1st Class—Violet

8AM LM + Fr. James Dolan (MPBOJ Family)

11AM HM *Pro populo*

Processional: Veni Emmanuel, vs. 6-7

Recessional: Savior of the Nations, Come

LM = Low Mass; LMO = Low Mass with Organ; HM = High/Solemn Mass

*Commemoration of the Advent FERIA

(Collect, Secret & Post-Communion of the 1st Sunday of Advent)

Our Weekly Offerings

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Offertory \$8,723.00

Offertory (Immaculate Conception) \$3,535.00

Parish Appeal 2023 \$440.00

Retirement for Religious..... \$105.00

Food Pantry..... \$15.00

Christmas Charities..... \$5.00

Christmas Flowers \$733.00

Sunday Mass Attendance: 8AM 508; 11AM 375; Total 883

On Line Contributions

The parish utilizes Faith Direct for on-line donations, which can be made directly from your bank account or credit card. If interested in making donations in this manner, please visit:

membership.faithdirect.net/PA678 or call 866-507-8757.

Parish Group News

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS usually meets every First Saturday of the month, beginning with the 9AM Mass. All adult women are welcome. Please contact christianmothers@mpboj.com for more information. The next meeting will be on the second Saturday: **January 13, 2024**. Topic to be announced.

SURSUM CORDA-YOUNG ADULTS GROUP is a nationwide initiative to foster the spiritual lives of Catholic adults, AGES 18–35, at Institute apostolates. To sign up for the mailing list and receive notice of future events, text **Corda** to 84576 and choose "SC

Pittsburgh." For more information, contact Jose Piñero at 863.450.5143 or sursumcorda@mpboj.com.

RESPECT LIFE GROUP (RLG) The Gospel of Life is at the heart of this new group. RLG promotes a culture of life through three working subcommittees of Legislation, Education, Advocacy. **RLG's Nov.-Dec. newsletter** may be found at both entrances of the church. Please contact Brenda Briola at 724-650-5767 or respectlife@mpboj.com for more information.

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve—Sunday, December 24

- Normal Sunday schedule at 8 and 11 a.m.
- 11:30 p.m. Carols

Christmas—Monday, December 25

- **12 Midnight Solemn Mass** “in media nocte”
- **8 a.m. Low Mass** with organ “in aurora”
- **11 a.m. Solemn Mass** “in die”

Hot Chocolate and Champagne

Not together, of course! Following the Christmas Midnight Mass, hot chocolate will be served in the Parish Center. On January 1st, following the 10 a.m. High Mass, there will be a champagne toast in the Parish Center.

Last Day for Christmas Cards

Sale of the Institute of Christ the King's unique Christmas cards ends today. Each card recipient will be remembered by the U.S. Provincial Superior at Holy Mass on Christmas Day. The cost for a packet of 10 cards and envelopes is \$20 where a portion of the proceeds directly benefits the parish. A limited number of previous years' cards are also available.

2024 Institute Calendars

The 2024 Institute of Christ the King calendars are available at both entrances of the church. Please take a copy home with you. These calendars are provided free of charge, but if you wish to make a donation, you may utilize the Benedictus donation box at the side entrance.

Catechism Program Hiatus

The “first half” of the Catechism school year ends today, with a two-week Christmas break on Dec. 24th and 31st. As a consequence, there will be *no coffee & donuts* following the 8 a.m. Low Mass for the next two weeks. Classes, coffee, and donuts will all resume on January 7th.

Parish Office Closures

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st, 2024 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

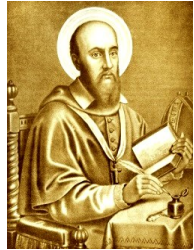
Introduction to the Devout Life

By St. Francis de Sales

Frequent Communion

(Book 2, Chapter 20)

It is said that Mithridates, King of Pontus, who invented the poison called after him, mithridate, so thoroughly impregnated his system with it, that when eventually he tried to poison himself to avoid becoming the Romans' slave, he never could succeed. The Savior instituted the most holy



Sacrament of the Eucharist, really containing His Body and His Blood, in order that they who eat it might live for ever. And therefore whosoever receives it frequently and devoutly, so strengthens the health and life of his soul, that it is hardly possible for him to be poisoned by any evil desires. We cannot be

fed by that Living Flesh and hold to the affections of death; and just as our first parents could not die in Paradise, because of the Tree of Life which God had placed therein, so this Sacrament of Life makes spiritual death impossible. The most fragile, easily spoilt fruits, such as cherries, apricots, and strawberries, can be kept all the year by being preserved in sugar or honey; so what wonder if our hearts, frail and weakly as they are, are kept from the corruption of sin when they are preserved in the sweetness ("sweeter than honey and the honeycomb") of the Incorruptible Body and Blood of the Son of God. O my child, those Christians who are lost will indeed have no answer to give when the Just Judge sets before them that they have voluntarily died the spiritual death, since it was so easy for them to have preserved life and health, by eating His Body which He gave them for that very end. "Miserable men!" He will say, "wherefore would ye die, with the Bread of Life itself in your hands?"

As to daily Communion, I neither commend nor condemn it; but with respect to communicating every Sunday, I counsel and exhort every one to do so, providing the mind has no attachment to sin. So says Saint Augustine, and with him I neither find fault nor unconditionally commend daily Communion, leaving that matter to the discretion of every person's own spiritual Guide; as the requisite dispositions for such frequent Communion are too delicate for one to advise it indiscriminately. On the other hand, these very special dispositions may be found in sundry devout souls, and therefore it would not be well to discourage everybody. It is a subject which must be dealt with according to each individual mind; it were imprudent to advise such frequent Communion to all, while, on the other hand, it would be presumptuous to blame any one for it, especially if he therein follows the advice of some wise director. Saint Catherine of Siena, when blamed for her frequent Communions, under the plea that Saint Augustine neither commended nor condemned daily Communion, replied gently, "Well, then, since Saint Augustine does not condemn it, neither, I pray you, do you condemn it, and I shall be content." But Saint Augustine earnestly exhorts all to communicate every Sunday. And as I presume, my child, that you have no attachment either to mortal or venial sins, you are in the condition which Saint Augustine requires; and if your spiritual Father approves, you may profitably communicate more frequently. Nevertheless, there are various hindrances which may arise, not so much from yourself, as from those among whom you live, which may lead a wise director to tell you not to communicate so often. For instance, if you are in a

position of subjection, and those whom you are bound to obey should be so ignorant or so prejudiced, as to be uneasy at your frequent Communions, all things considered, it may be well to show consideration for their weakness, and to make your Communion fortnightly; only, of course, where there is no possible way of overcoming the difficulty otherwise. But one cannot give any general rule on such a point, each person must follow the advice of their own spiritual Guide; only this much I will say, that monthly Communions are the very fewest which any one seeking to serve God devoutly can make.

If you are discreet, neither father nor mother, husband nor wife, will ever hinder you from communicating frequently, and that because on the day of your Communion you will give good heed always to be more than usually gentle and amiable towards them, doing all you can to please them, so that they are not likely to prevent your doing a thing which in nowise inconveniences themselves, unless they were most particularly unreasonable and perverse, in which case, as I have said, your Director might advise you to yield. There is nothing in the married life to hinder frequent Communion. Most certainly the Christians of the Primitive Church communicated daily, whether married or single. Neither is any malady a necessary impediment, except, indeed, anything producing constant sickness.

Those who communicate weekly must be free from mortal sin, and also from any attachment to venial sin, and they should feel a great desire for Communion; but for daily Communion people should furthermore have conquered most of their inclinations to evil, and no one should practice it without the advice of their spiritual Guide.

An Advent Prayer

Ant. Behold, the Lord will come, and with Him all His saints; and on that day there shall be a great light, alleluia.

V. Behold, the Lord shall appear upon a white cloud.

R. And with Him thousands of saints.

Let us pray.

Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and purify our hearts by Thy grace: that when our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son shall come, together with all His saints, He may find us ready to give Him a place within us: who liveth and reigneth with Thee for ever and ever. Amen.



Thank You, Church Decorators

Our sincere thanks to all who helped with the Christmas decorating yesterday. Your efforts make the church look so wonderful in anticipation of our Lord's birth. May He bless you abundantly for the hours you spent in doing this beautiful work.

Sweet Success!

Thank you to all who participated in the parish Betsy Ann Fundraiser—with over \$2,000 raised for parish programs! Much gratitude to Jim and Karen Paras, the owners of Betsy Ann who make this fundraiser possible, and to Peggy Wrabley, who works so hard to ensure the success of this fundraiser.

To All Our Guests...

The Canons and Faithful of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish welcome you and hope that your time in “The ‘Burgh” may be an opportunity to share in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Faith. Please enjoy the beauty of this Personal Parish, established by Bishop David Zubik on July 1, 2019 on the *Feast of The Most Precious Blood of Jesus*.

According to liturgical tradition and the Traditional Latin Mass of the Roman Rite, Holy Communion is received kneeling and on the tongue. All visitors who are not of the Catholic Faith are welcome to join us in prayer but are requested not to receive Holy Communion. Because reception of Holy Communion is the sign of Divine and Ecclesial unity, only practicing Catholics who are free of mortal sin, and have observed the Eucharistic Fast, should present themselves for Holy Communion. For those who need a low gluten Host, let an usher know as you approach the Communion rail toward the end of Communion.

To receive more information about the parish or if you desire to become a member of the Catholic Church, contact the Priory at 412-761-1508. The pastoral care of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish is provided by THE INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST.

Any and all contributions to the parish are warmly appreciated and tax deductible.

PARISHIONER MATERIALS/REQUESTS—At the Church entrances, there are racks containing church forms, reading materials, and prayer cards. Please feel free to take what you need, but do not leave your own materials without permission from Canon Avis. Parish events are also publicized on the bulletin boards in the side entrance and in the narthex. If you are involved in an event that you would like to publicize or schedule, please provide a copy of the notice or request to businessmanager@mpboj.com for approval.

Sacramental Information

Infant Baptism:

Baptism should be administered within two weeks of birth. Please call the office prior to the baby’s birth to make arrangements.

Holy Matrimony:

Couples planning to marry at the parish must call the office to schedule proper instruction at least six months in advance.

Catholic Faith Formation and Spiritual needs:

For those seeking *Catechism*, preparing for *1st Holy Communion*, *Confirmation*, needs of the sick or funeral information, please call the parish office.

Anointing of the Sick:

If you need the assistance of a priest for the dying, please contact the office at 412-761-1508. If after hours, please call and listen to the prompts and select option #1.

Certificates:

Certificates for Sacraments administered prior to July 1, 2019 are maintained by the Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives. You may reach the Diocese Archive office at 412-456-3158, or archives@diopitt.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS—Requests for proposed bulletin announcements must be submitted **ten days in advance** of publication via email to bulletin@mpboj.com

MASS INTENTIONS—*The Parish Mass Intention Registry* is currently CLOSED. Mass intentions are accepted during specific periods throughout the calendar year, with each period announced in the bulletin, in advance of the request period. Instructions and forms are made available at that time.

PARISH NEWS—The parish uses **Flocknote** to circulate news and information. If you’d like to sign up, please text MPBOJ to 84576 from your cell phone and follow the instructions, or check the parish website (MPBOJ.com) for more information.



MOST PRECIOUS
BLOOD of JESUS PARISH

General Safety & Indemnity

In an effort to make Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish a welcoming, safe place for all parishioners and visitors alike, the parish follows a general Safety and Indemnity Policy. When visiting the parish, whether for Mass or any social events in or on parish property, parents accept full responsibility for their children’s safety, by maintaining prudent watch and supervision of their children at all times. When children are registered and involved in parish related activities where a parish program manager oversees the children (e.g., Children’s Choir; Catechism; altar server practice), at least one parent/guardian must remain on campus for the duration of the program and until the parent has regained custody at the conclusion of the parish activity/program.

*Production of this bulletin is partially underwritten by parishioners of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish, all rights reserved.
For more underwriting opportunities, contact The Priory Office at 412-761-1508 or email BusinessManager@MPBOJ.com.*