



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD of JESUS PARISH

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

Vigil of Christmas

December 24, 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

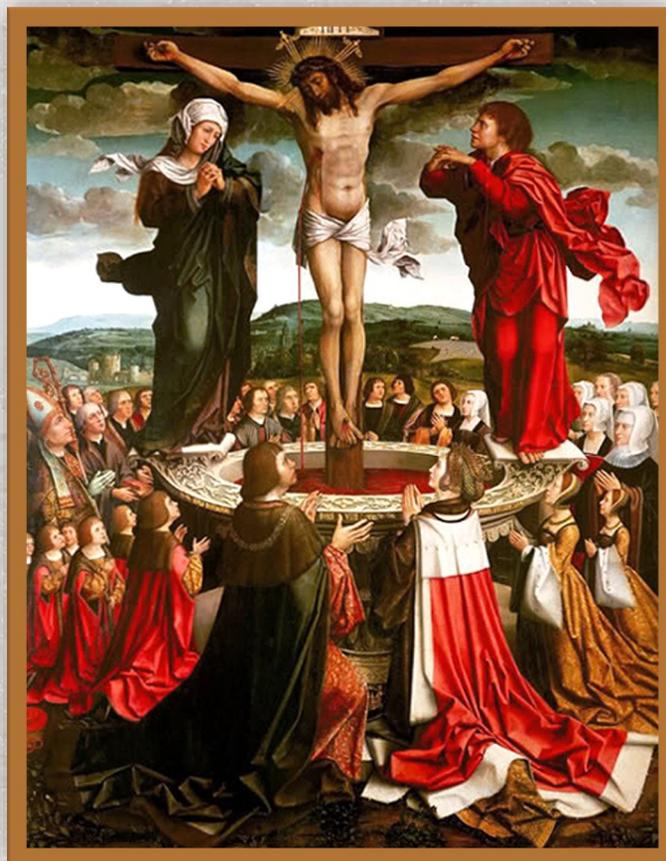
Confession Schedule

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*
office@mpboj.com
Charles R. Friend, *Budgets & Financial Reporting*
temporalaffairs@mpboj.com
John Rokosz, *Music Director*
music@mpboj.com
Jeannine M. Goelz, *Office Coordinator*
volunteer@mpboj.com
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 24, 2023

Vigil of Christmas, 1st Class—Violet

8AM LMO + Fr. James Dolan (MPBOJ Family)
 11AM HM *Pro populo*

Processional: Veni Emmanuel, vs. 6-7 (pg. 101)
 Recessional: Savior of the Nations, Come (pg. 90)

Monday, December 25, 2023 *Holy Day of Obligation*

Christmas, 1st Class—White

12 AM HM *Pro populo*
 8AM LMO For Our Dedicated Parish Employees
 11AM HM Living & Deceased members of MPBOJ

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr, 2nd Class—Red

Commemoration of Christmas Octave
 12PM LMO + Cynthia Hagy (David Witter)
 7PM LM First Holy Communicants 2023 (Patrizio Family)

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 *Wine Blessing*

St. John the Apostle, 2nd Class—White

Commemoration of Christmas Octave
 12PM LMO Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Paul Farah (Family)

Thursday, December 28, 2023

Holy Innocents, 2nd Class—Red

Commemoration of Christmas Octave
 12PM LMO + Albert Brunn Jr. (Beth Svirbel)

Friday, December 29, 2023

Christmas Octave, 2nd Class—White

Commemoration of St. Thomas Becket
 12PM LM Our Godchildren (Patrizio Family)

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Christmas Octave, 2nd Class—White

9AM LM Fr. William Schierer-Birthday (Paul & Hannah Allen)

Sunday, December 31, 2023 *Te Deum*

Sunday within the Christmas Octave, 2nd Class—White

8AM LMO *Pro populo*
 11AM HM James Paras (Family)
 Processional: The First Nowell
 Recessional: Hark the Herald

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 17, 2023

Offertory	\$9,624.00
Offertory (Christmas)	\$200.00
Parish Appeal 2023	\$10.00
Food Pantry.....	\$30.00
Christmas Charities.....	\$5.00
Christmas Flowers	\$697.96
<i>Faith Direct Report (November 16 – 30, 2023)</i>	
Offertory	\$16,218.00
Offertory (Immaculate Conception)	\$320.00
Offertory (Christmas)	\$780.00
Parish Appeal.....	\$1,271.00
Parish Improvement.....	\$614.00
Food Pantry.....	\$360.00
Christmas Flowers	\$169.00
Christmas Charities.....	\$65.00

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Sunday Mass Attendance: 8AM 501; 11AM 428; Total 929

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.

Men's Night

At 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 27th the parish will host a Men's Night in the parish center. All male parishioners aged 21+ are invited. Expect lively conversation on Catholic topics, a brief address by one of the canons, and to get to know other men from the parish. Pizza and some beverages will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring snack food, drinks, or a few dollars to defray expenses. The basketball court, bowling alley, and pool table will be open. Please RSVP to Mike Konopelski via email to mike.konopelski@gmail.com. Contact Mike with any questions.

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 High Mass** “in media nocte”
- **8 a.m. Low Mass** with organ “in aurora”
- **11 a.m. High 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.

Caroling

Join fellow parishioners and the canons for caroling this week:

- Tues., Dec. 26—Brookline, 6 p.m. at the Cannon memorial
- Fri., Dec 29—Sewickley, 6 p.m. at the gazebo at Wolcott Park off of Broad St.



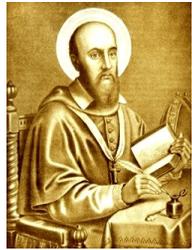
Introduction to the Devout Life

By St. Francis de Sales

How to Communicate

(Book 2, Chapter 21)

Begin your preparation overnight, by sundry aspirations and loving pious invocations. Go to bed somewhat earlier than usual, so that you may get up earlier the next morning; and if you should wake during the night, fill your heart and lips at once with sacred words where-



with to make your soul ready to receive the Bridegroom, Who watches while you sleep, and Who intends to give you countless gifts and graces, if you on your part are prepared to accept them. In the morning rise with joyful expectation of the Blessing you hope for, and (having made your Confession) go with the fullest trust, but at the same time with the fullest humility, to receive that Heavenly Food which will sustain your immortal life. And after having said the sacred words, "Lord, I am not worthy," do not make any further movement whatever, either in prayer or otherwise, but gently opening your mouth, in the fullness of faith, hope, and love, receive Him in Whom, by Whom, and through Whom, you believe, hope, and love. O my child, bethink you that just as the bee, having gathered heaven's dew and earth's sweetest juices from amid the flowers, carries it to her hive; so the Priest, having taken the Savior, God's Own Son, Who came down from Heaven, the Son of Mary, Who sprang up as earth's choicest flower, from the Altar, feeds you with that Bread of Sweetness and of all delight. When you have received it kindle your heart to adore the King of our Salvation, tell Him of all your own personal matters, and realize that He is within you, seeking your best happiness. In short, give Him the very best reception you possibly can, and act so that in all you do it may be evident that God is with you. When you cannot have the blessing of actual Communion, at least communicate in heart and mind, uniting yourself by ardent desire to the Life-giving Body of the Savior.

Your main intention in Communion should be to grow, strengthen, and abound in the Love of God; for Love's Sake receive that which Love Alone gives you. Of a truth there is no more loving or tender aspect in which to gaze upon the Savior than this act, in which He, so to say, annihilates Himself, and gives Himself to us as food, in order to fill our souls, and to unite Himself more closely to the heart and flesh of His faithful ones.

If men of the world ask why you communicate so often, tell them that it is that you may learn to love God; that you may be cleansed from imperfections, set free from trouble, comforted in affliction, strengthened in weakness. Tell them that there are two manner of men who need frequent Communion—those who are perfect, since being ready they were much to blame did they not come to the Source and Fountain of all perfection; and the imperfect, that they may learn how to become perfect; the strong, lest they become weak, and the weak, that they may become strong; the sick that they may be healed, and the sound lest they sicken. Tell them that you, imperfect, weak and ailing, need frequently to communicate with your Perfection, your Strength, your Physician. Tell them that those who are but little engaged in worldly affairs should communicate often, because they have leisure; and those who are heavily pressed with business, because they stand so much in need of help; and he who is

hard worked needs frequent and substantial food. Tell them that you receive the Blessed Sacrament that you may learn to receive it better; one rarely does that well which one seldom does. Therefore, my child, communicate frequently—as often as you can, subject to the advice of your spiritual Father. Our mountain hares turn white in winter, because they live in, and feed upon, the snow, and by dint of adoring and feeding upon Beauty, Goodness, and Purity itself in this most Divine Sacrament you too will become lovely, holy, pure.

St. John's Wine Blessing

Following the noon Mass on the Feast of St. John (Wednesday, Dec. 27th), wine will be blessed. If you would like to have your wine blessed for this feast, bring a bottle or two (or as many as you wish) to Mass, and Canon or an altarboy will let you know what to do with the bottles to have them blessed.

Wine is blessed on his feastday because St. John was served poisoned wine, but survived because he blessed the wine before he put it to his lips; the poison rose from the chalice in the shape of a serpent. In commemoration of that miracle, wine is blessed on this day.

Te Deum & Veni Creator

On Sunday, December 31st, in thanksgiving for all the blessings that God has granted us this year, the *Te Deum* (the great hymn of thanksgiving) will be sung following the High Mass. Monday, Jan. 1st is the beginning of the new year. The *Veni Creator* (the hymn to the Holy Ghost) will be sung before the High Mass to invoke God's protection and guidance in the new year. The faithful may gain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions by assisting at the *Te Deum* and the *Veni Creator*.

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.

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.

No Obligation on January 1st

Because January 1st falls on a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass that day is not in effect for 2024. This is particular law in the United States, as decreed by the Conference of Bishops. Thus there will be only one Mass that day, at 10 a.m. (preceded by singing of the *Veni Creator*).

Reminder: Candle Donation Increased

Since the start of Advent, the votive candle donation has increased to \$5. The parish regrets the need for this adjustment

The Collegium Offering Two-year Full Scholarships

Collegium Sanctorum Angelorum (College of the Holy Angels) is a faithful, affordable, and classical liberal arts college in Hagerstown, MD. It has two-year full scholarships available for newly enrolled students for the Fall of 2024. Deadline for starting the application process is only a week away—January 1, 2024. If interested, go to bit.ly/collegium-scholarship for full details.

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.*