



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD of JESUS PARISH

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

**Sunday within the
Christmas Octave**

December 31, 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

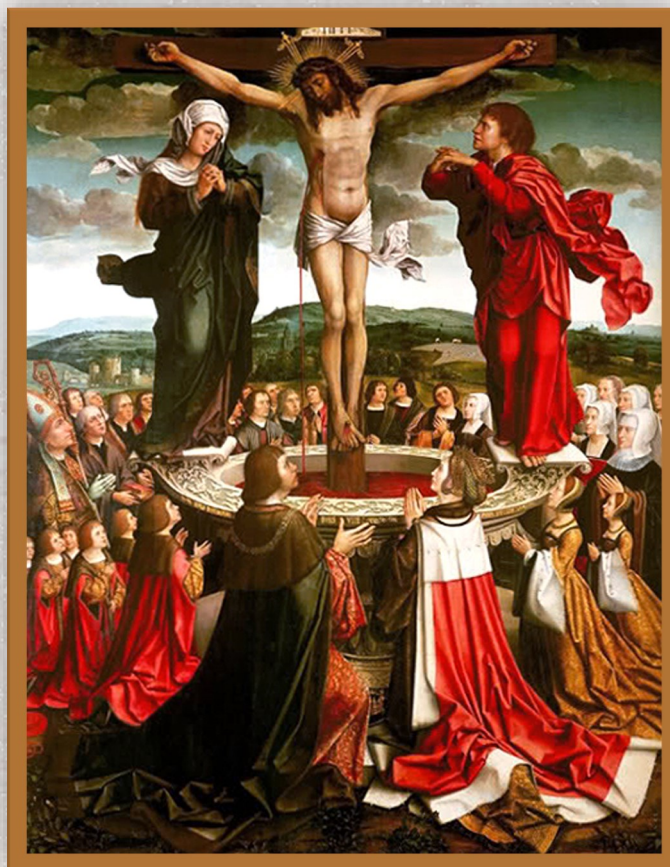
Confession Schedule

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
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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 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 (pg. 88)
 Recessional: Hark the Herald (pg. 70)

Monday, January 1, 2024 *Happy New Year!*
Christmas Octave, 1st Class—White
 10AM HM *Pro populo*

Tuesday, January 2, 2024
Holy Name of Jesus, 2nd Class—White
 12PM LMO Donna Turcsanyi (Mary Eileen Cokley)
 7PM LM Private Intention (O'Connor Family)

Wednesday, January 3, 2024
Votive Mass of St. John, 4th Class—White
 12PM LM Gail Campbell (Priscillo Fello)

Thursday, January 4, 2024
V. M. of Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest, 3rd Cl.—White
 12PM LM + Lillian Keane (Patrick & Nicole Keane)
 8PM Holy Hour of Adoration
 9PM Compline

Friday, January 5, 2024
Votive Mass of Sacred Heart, 3rd Class—White
Commemoration of St. Telesphorus
 12PM LM +Johnny Pfeifer (Bob Pacacha)
 7PM Epiphany Water Blessing

Saturday, January 6, 2024
Epiphany of the Lord, 1st Class—White
 9AM HM + Carolyn Mozlack (Robin Mauser)

Sunday, January 7, 2024
Holy Family, 2nd Class—White
 8AM LMO *Pro populo*
 11AM HM + Concetta Perri Vairo (Romina Napoleon)
 Processional: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
 Recessional: Bethlehem of Noblest Cities
 LM = Low Mass; LMO = Low Mass with Organ; HM = High/Solemn Mass

Our Weekly Offerings

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Offertory	\$12,927.00
Offertory (Christmas)	\$9,349.00
Parish Appeal 2023	\$360.00
Food Pantry.....	\$635.00
Christmas Charities.....	\$1,309.00
Christmas Flowers	\$90.00
St. Anthony School.....	\$10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$10.00

Sunday Mass Attendance: 8AM 442; 11AM 316; Total 758
Christmas: Midnight 414; 8AM 244; 11AM 268; Total 926

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. The RLG's next quarterly meeting will be on **Saturday, January 27 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass**. 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.

No Coffee, No Donuts

Due to the hiatus in our Catechism program, the gymnasium has fallen silent, with neither coffee nor donuts being served today. Refreshments and cacophony will resume next week.

New Year's Champagne Toast

Tomorrow (January 1st) following the 10 a.m. High Mass, there will be a champagne toast in the Parish Center. Felix Annus Novus!



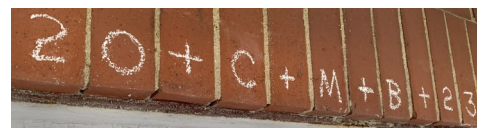
Epiphany Water Blessing

On the Vigil of Epiphany (Friday, January 5th), the Epiphany Water Blessing will take place at 7 p.m. The water will be provided by the parish, so please bring empty holy water bottles to take Epiphany Water home. The Blessed Water will be available as supplies last.



Blessed Chalk and House Blessings

On Sunday, January 7th and the following Sunday, blessed chalk will be available in the church entrances along with instructions on how to bless your home with the chalk. If you have blessed chalk from previous years, you can still use it for this year.



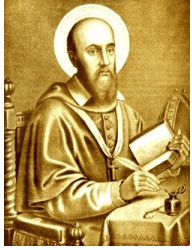
Introduction to the Devout Life

By St. Francis de Sales

How to Select That Which we Should Chiefly Practice

(Book 3, Chapter 1 – Part 1)

The queen bee never takes wing without being surrounded by all her Subjects; even so Love never enters the heart but it is sure to bring all other virtues in its train; marshalling and employing them as a captain his soldiers; yet, nevertheless, Love does not set them all to work suddenly, or equally, at all times and everywhere. The righteous man is "like a tree planted by the water side, that will bring forth his fruit in due season;" inasmuch as Love, watering and refreshing the soul, causes it to bring forth good works, each in season as required. There is an old proverb to the effect that the sweetest music is unwelcome at a time of mourning; and certain persons have made a great mistake when, seeking to cultivate some special virtue, they attempt to obtrude it on all occasions, like the ancient philosophers we read of, who were always laughing or weeping. Worse still if they take upon themselves to censure those who do not make a continual study of this their pet virtue. Saint Paul tells us to "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep;" and Charity is patient, kind, liberal, prudent, indulgent. At the same time, there are virtues of universal account, which must not only be called into occasional action, but ought to spread their influence over everything. We do not very often come across opportunities for exercising strength, magnanimity, or magnificence; but gentleness, temperance, modesty, and humility, are graces which ought to color everything we do. There may be virtues of a more exalted mold, but at all events these are the most continually called for in daily life. Sugar is better than salt, but we use salt more generally and oftener. Consequently, it is well to have a good and ready stock in hand of those general virtues of which we stand in so perpetual a need. In practicing any virtue, it is well to choose that which is most according to our duty, rather than most according to our taste. It was Saint Paula's liking to practice bodily mortifications with a view to the keener enjoyment of spiritual sweetness, but obedience to her superiors was a higher duty; and therefore Saint Jerome acknowledges that she was wrong in practicing excessive abstinence contrary to the advice of her Bishop. And the Apostles, whose mission it was to preach the Gospel, and feed souls with the Bread of Life, judged well that it was not right for them to hinder this holy work in order to minister to the material wants of the poor, weighty as that work was also. Every calling stands in special need of some special virtue; those required of a prelate, a prince, or a soldier, are quite different; so are those beseeeming a wife or a widow, and although all should possess every virtue, yet all are not called upon to exercise them equally, but each should cultivate chiefly those which are important to the manner of life to which he is called. Among such virtues as have no special adaptation to our own calling, choose the most excellent, not the most showy. A comet generally looks larger than the stars, and fills the eye more; but all the while comets are not nearly so important as the stars, and only seem so large to us because they are nearer to us than stars, and are of a grosser kind. So there are certain virtues which touch us very sensibly and are very material, so to say, and therefore ordinary people give them the preference. Thus the common run of men ordinarily value temporal almsgiving more than spiritual; and think more of fasting, exterior discipline and bodily mortification than of meekness, cheerfulness,



modesty, and other interior mortifications, which nevertheless are far better. Do you then, my child, choose the best virtues, not those which are most highly esteemed; the most excellent, not the most visible; the truest, not the most conspicuous. *(To be continued)*

Te Deum & Veni Creator

This morning, 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 last few 2024 Institute of Christ the King calendars are available at the 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 Closure

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 1st, 2024 for the New Year holiday.

No Obligation on January 1st

When January 1st falls on a Monday, as is the case in 2024, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated. This is particular law in the United States, as decreed by the Conference of Bishops. Thus there will be only one Mass tomorrow, at 10 a.m. (preceded by singing of the *Veni Creator*).

Christmas Blessings



Canon Bourgeois and I thank you for all of your gifts, cards, and prayerful intercessions during this joyous season of the Nativity of Our Lord. May the Christ Child bless you for your thoughtfulness and please be assured of our continued prayers for all of you.

In Christo Rege et Maria,
Canon Avis

New Year Resolution— Register with the Parish

Attending Mass at Most Precious Blood of Jesus parish is certainly a wonderful way to spend your Sunday, but if you want to fully belong to this parish family, please consider officially registering as a member. Enrollment in the parish allows you to participate fully with parish life and includes important benefits, including the ability to receive all sacraments at the parish without bureaucratic complications, obtain a "letter of good standing" if needed, and get an annual itemized statement of your offertory donations. Children of registered parishioners who turn 18 should independently register as members of the parish. Newly married members should also register as a couple with the parish, even if individually registered prior to the wedding. If you are interested in joining the parish, registration forms can be found in the top shelf of the racks at the entrances to the church. Please consider this important step of commitment to our parish family.

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.*