



Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Parish Scottsdale

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For us as Catholics, the Eucharist is not only the center of our worship, but it is whom we worship: Jesus Christ. Additionally, while the other Sacraments give us grace, the Holy Eucharist adds to this grace – it gives us the *Author* of all grace. Our Baptism exists for the Eucharist, and all of the other Sacraments are enriched by the Eucharist. We can speak of many other kinds of presence of Jesus, but none of them compare to that in the Holy Eucharist.

As Catholics who believe in the Real Presence, we are deeply offended by satanic mockery of the central form of worship: the Mass and the Eucharist. In a bit of research, I have found two major types of so-called Satanists: theistic (theologically founded) in that they believe in and worship Satan as a deity. The other type are atheistic Satanists, who believe neither in the devil nor in God, but rather “worship” themselves as their own God. Theistic Satanists want to pit the devil against Jesus, worshipping the Evil One, the Prince of Darkness, over his adversary, Jesus the Christ, the Prince of Peace and the Light of the World. It is in their gathering for a “Black Mass” that the actual Holy Mass, prayed by Catholic priests the world over and attended by millions each day, is not only mocked, but also when the Eucharist is desecrated in unthinkable ways that varies by cult. Yet both theistic and atheistic Satanists must have a consecrated Host to perform their deprived rituals at a Black Mass – and the only place to get one (or more) that has been consecrated is from the Catholic Church at a Catholic Mass. Even Satanists recognize the Real Presence – one wonders how our Church would be different if we as practicing Catholics recognized the Eucharist as such! Note that they don’t seek the Eucharist from other churches – only the Catholic Church can “give” the world Jesus.

“SatanCon” (Satan Convention) organized by The Satanic Temple (TST, headquartered in Salem, Massachusetts) will be held in central Scottsdale on 11-13 February 2022 at the Saguaro Hotel. It is the first such convention by TST. The SatanCon website describes the event as “a TST holiday that congregation members observe as a ‘hail yourself’ day.” The website also says that “Attendees will enjoy lectures and panels presented by our campaigns and congregations as entertainment and a Satanic Marketplace” (Source: 12News.com). Here’s an interesting quote from Lucien Greaves, co-founder and spokesperson for The Satanic Temple: “In addition to creating a community for our members, SatanCon serves as an expression of our good will toward the city of Scottsdale, despite the perplexing and unfortunate ruling against us which defied precedent and common sense. In the course of litigation, Scottsdale officials desperately made clear that they are, in fact, accepting and inclusive regarding Satanists. We heard you, Scottsdale, and we accepted that as an invitation to turn Scottsdale into the Happy Satanic Fun Capital of the World” (Source: prnewswire.com).

While it appears that TST is more of the atheistic Satanist bent, we cannot be sure of the intentions of the members. As such, I believe it necessary for a parish called Blessed Sacrament to take some extraordinary measures to protect the Eucharist from possible profane use and abuse by adherents of this group or any other satanic cult. Outlined below are policies and procedures that are either in effect or will go into effect at Blessed Sacrament effective immediately:

1. **All persons presenting themselves for Holy Communion must consume the Host immediately in the presence of a Minister of Holy Communion.** If a person receives Holy Communion in the hand, s/he must remain before the Minister and place the Host in
Know God, Love God, Serve God

Blessed Sacrament is renowned as a parish of engaged disciples welcoming and serving all in the name of Christ.

We are guided by Faith, Hope and Love through Prayer, Family and Discipleship.

his/her mouth *before* stepping away. (Note that reception of the Host on the tongue mitigates profanity as the Host begins to dissolve immediately when placed on the tongue and has always been one of the primary reasons for reception on the tongue.) Masks pose an elevated risk of removing a Host from the church without consumption as the Host can be slipped into the mask simulating consumption. As such, it is important that masks be *removed in front of the minister* who can witness consumption of the Host.

2. Ministers of Holy Communion will pause the line should someone walk away without consuming the Host and ask the person to consume it in his/her presence. Ministers have been advised on how to handle such a situation. A person sitting in the pew who witnesses such a situation is strongly encouraged to act accordingly as well. A simple phrase can be used: "Hello. I noticed you didn't consume the Host. Could you please do so at this time" and wait until this has been done. (In most instances, the Host is consumed, even if the person was trying to remove it for nefarious reasons as they don't want to call attention to themselves.) If handed back, consume it immediately.
3. Any person who presents a pyx in the regular Communion line for a Host will be asked to see a Deacon or Priest after Mass. Only duly commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) from Blessed Sacrament will be provided a Host in a pyx *after* Mass. All EMHCs will have proper identification at the time of request. Any EMHC who is not from Blessed Sacrament will be directed to their home parish and/or pastor.
4. It has also been documented that in other places attempts have been made to "purchase" the Eucharist from various staff, volunteers, ministers, etc., and to be taken to a meeting point (much as would occur for a "drug deal"). Anyone participating in such a transaction has committed a mortal sin of the gravest kind.
5. **The door to the Adoration Chapel at Blessed Sacrament will be electronically locked during all hours of the week beginning 6.00p Friday, 4 February 2022 until 6.00a Monday, 14 February 2022.** To enter the chapel, attendees must have a key fob; visitors to the Chapel during daylight hours may request a fob from the Parish Office *during regular office hours* and, at the conclusion of their visit, return the fob to the Parish Office. Persons using this procedure will need to leave some form of security (such as a driver's license, car keys, etc.) for the fob. If someone does not want a fob from the office, they may visit the church, which is under surveillance at all times. The exterior *gate* to the Chapel will remain locked on its regular schedule.

This time of year we have many visitors to our parish, and we must remain welcoming and friendly to all who come. Let us not unfairly judge anyone who might be a stranger to us, but in kindness of heart represent Christ to all who come to our parish.

While awareness and adherence to these procedures will help mitigate possible profanity of our most cherished Eucharist, we must never cease praying for the conversion of souls. None of us are here to condemn; all of us are responsible to bring "the other" to salvation, regardless of who the "other" is.

God's blessings to you.
Fr Bryan