

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 25th/May 26th 2019: Sixth Sunday of Easter (English)

Fifth Sunday after Easter (Latin)



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Pastor

Rev. Jim W. Booth

SACRAMENTS and LITURGY

English Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

English Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Latin Sunday Mass: 10:45 a.m.

English Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Monday to Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 7:00 a.m. Wednesday and Friday, 6:30 p.m. on First Friday

First Saturday Latin Mass: 8:30 a.m. with confessions beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass: As Announced

Confessions: Thirty minutes before Saturday and Sunday Masses and by request

Baptisms: By Appointment

Marriage Arrangements must be made with the Pastor **at least 6 months before the date of the wedding. Talk to the Pastor before making any firm wedding plans. No destination weddings.**

WELCOME to all of our visitors: We are glad you have attended Mass with us. If you wish to join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form at the Religious Goods Counter located in the vestibule of the front entrance.

IN MEMORIAM: In memory of Tevin Williams, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 26th to June 1st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Fr Bill Jones from June 2nd until June 8th.

MASS OF THE ASCENSION: A Low Latin Mass will be offered this Thursday, May 30th at 6:00 p.m. for the Feast of the Lord's Ascension. In our region of dioceses, the Feast of the Lord's Ascension is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

ORDINATION: Deacon Justin Ward will be ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St Paul on Saturday, June 1st at 11:00 a.m. Please pray for Justin as his years of prayer and study come to fruition. Sadly, there will not be another priestly ordination in our diocese until at least 2022, so also please pray for all of priests of the diocese, especially those serving beyond their time of retirement.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on June 1st. Since the ordination at St Paul's occurs that morning, there will be no altar server training, Martha and Mary Altar Sodality, or choir practice following the First Saturday Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

2019 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: Sunday, May 26th (1st Communion); Sunday, June 9th (Pentecost); Thursday, June 20th (Corpus Christi); Thursday, August 15th (Assumption of BVM); Sunday, September 8th (Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost); Sunday, October 27th (Christ the King); Sunday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception); Sunday, December 15th (Gaudete Sunday); and Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve).

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Justin Ward, Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Luis Reyes, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, and John Gardiner. Pray for those who are discerning a call to the priesthood.

BBQ FUNDRAISER: Due to a general lack of orders, there will be no barbeque available this weekend. If you have already paid for your barbeque, please see Jim Wathen for a refund.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4685 and \$295 were collected for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Mass in Rectory Chapel)

Sat, May 25: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Teresa Renna (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, May 26: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Joseph L. Tombrello (by Danny & Judy Rohling)
Mon, May 27 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Clough Family (by the Jones Family)
Tues, May 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Pohorelsky Family (by the Jones Family)
Wed, May 29: *7:00 a.m. † Cecilia Yarbrough (by Alan and Pam Olson)
*8:30 a.m. † Ron DeSellums (by the Jones Family)
Thur, May 30: *8:30 a.m. † Ron DeSellums (by the Jones Family)
6:00 p.m. Special Intention for Barbara Juneau (by Charlie Matthews)
Fri, May 31: *7:00 a.m. † Bernard Krahm (by the Jones Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, OP
Sat, June 1: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Eddie Matthews (by the Juneau Family)
11:00 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Clough (by the Jones Family) -
Ordination at St Paul's
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for John & Cecilia Sampedro (by the Sampedro Family)
Sun, June 2: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Hahn Family (by Danny & Judy Rohling)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Isabella Auer, Donald Nettleman, Kenneth Levesque, Kathryn Ransom Mahon, Levi Ray, John Minjares, Sr., Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Vinita Kelley, Penny Vaughn, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Sylvia McCarrick, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Fr Kevin McGrath, OSB, Johnny Young, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, George Dunham, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Liz Bailey, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Anna Marie Madison, Kathleen Strawmeyer, Cindy Little, Stan Trawick, David Henning, Loretta Mara, Lillie Rumore, Jennie Sciro, Stephanie Perry, and Marcus Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, 22-23, Lk 24:46-53
9:00 a.m. Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, 22-23, Lk 24:46-53
10:45 a.m. Sunday After the Ascension	1Pet 4:7-11, Jn 15:26-16:4

Finally(ish)

At the moment, the recently passed Alabama ban on abortion stands as the most restrictive in the nation. Nevertheless, it would have been a fairly typical state law in many states prior to the major mistake called *Roe v. Wade*. So-called pundits and Hollywood celebrities have called the new Alabama law barbaric, inhumane, medieval, and unjust. So life in this country, or at least many parts of it, would have been barbaric, inhumane, medieval, and unjust prior to January of 1973? No doubt, there were many things about this country that would have been unjust at that time, but not allowing a woman to seek an abortion at any time of her pregnancy for any reason whatsoever would hardly seem to be one of those injustices. In fact, most people at that time would have understood abortion to be barbaric, inhumane, medieval, and unjust. And rightly so.

It is now and always has been the teaching of the Catholic Church that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. There are no caveats on this teaching. There is no exception for gender, race, age, nationality, ability, disability, intelligence, size, degree of development, or any other factor that might be used to deny anyone of the fact that they are made in God's image and likeness. Being made in the image and likeness of God properly belongs to our human nature and not to the various things that make us unique as individuals. The human embryo, the baby in the womb, the newborn, the infant, the toddler, the preschooler, the grade-schooler, the teen, the young adult, the adult, the elderly, the invalid, and the dying share a common humanity and therefore are made in the image and likeness of God. Since each of us is made in God's image, we have always understood that human life was distinct from the life of other creatures. Indeed, human life was understood as sacred.

Thus, the taking of human life has always been understood to be a very serious issue. The Fifth Commandment – Thou Shall Not Kill – was cut in stone by God's own finger for a reason. Left to ourselves, we easily fall into murder as a means of solving our problems. The second sin committed by man was Cain's murder of Abel, who was killed out of jealousy. King David, a man after God's own heart, resorts to having Uriah killed to cover the shame regarding his adultery with (or perhaps the rape of) Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. People ever since Cain have taken innocent human life for any number of reasons, and the Church would affirm that the taking of such innocent life is never ever justified.

Yes, the Church affirms the sad necessity of war, but recognizes war as a form of self-defense. Total war, however, where even innocent noncombatants are deliberately targeted, is never justified. In the same way, a man might have to kill a criminal in order to save his own life or the lives of others. Capital punishment, when understood not as vengeance but as necessary to protect the lives of innocent people from a violent felon, is also deemed moral. Because of what they have done, what they are threatening to do, or what they would be prone to do in the future, the taking of an attacking soldier's life, a would-be murderer's life, or a hardened violent criminal's life is permissible so as to protect innocent life. In other words, the soldier at war, the would-be murderer, or the hardened criminal is not innocent such that the taking of their lives would be considered murder.

This brings us to the exceptions that are often considered acceptable when it comes to restricting abortion. These exceptions include the life of the mother, the baby conceived as a result of rape, and the baby conceived as a result of incest. In two of these cases, there is a perpetrator of evil who could hardly be deemed innocent: the man who committed the rape or the incest. In these cases, it is easy to see the mother as an innocent victim. But why can't we recognize, understand, and acknowledge the unborn baby's absolute innocence? In what way does the child share in the guilt of the rapist or the molester? Why can't we see that aborting such a child is the direct taking of an innocent human life? Part of the reason is the rhetoric used by the pro-abortion side: a woman should not have to be 'punished' with the child. When we as a culture can begin to see an innocent baby as a punishment or a threat, it means that we have embraced a barbaric, inhumane, medieval, and unjust standard for viewing the unborn child.

- Fr Booth