

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 6th/July 7th 2019: Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost (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 Kathryn Mabee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from July 7th to July 13th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Beverly Grisham from July 21st until July 27th.

REST IN PEACE: Monsignor Eugene O’Conner, the long-time pastor of St Barnabas, passed away on June 29th and was laid to rest on the 3rd of July. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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

2019 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Our Lady of Sorrows School has an opening for a maintenance/janitorial staff member responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the school. A high school diploma and five years of verifiable experience with general maintenance is preferred. Must have a driver’s license. Contact the school office at 205-879-3237 for more information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They are searching to fill the following positions: accounting assistant, groundskeeper, IT support technician, non-linear editor, production assistant, traffic assistant, on-air graphic designer, and viewer services representative. Information on job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com. Please email cover letter, salary requirements & resume to humanresources@ewtn.com

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4044 and \$150 were collected for the Preservation Fund. A total of \$901 were collected for the mission Cooperative Appeal. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Luis Reyes, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, and John Gardiner.

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

- Sat, July 6: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Margaret Rumore (by Valori Clemens)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Killian Fach (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
- Sun, July 7: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Rumore Family (by the Judy and Danny Rohling)
- Mon, July 8 *8:30 a.m. † Gina Fontana (by Teneda Latham)
- Tues, July 9: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Cassian Fach (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
- Wed, July 10: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Zachary Gagnon (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
*8:30 a.m. † Theresa Smith (by Nina Duncan)
- Thur, July 11: *8:30 a.m. † Diana Fontana (by Teneda Latham)
- Fri, July 12 *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Dominic Rumore (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
*8:30 a.m. † Claude Dirgo (by Teneda Latham)
- Sat, July 13: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Tom Beaumont (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
- Sun, July 14: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Rumore Family (by the Judy and Danny Rohling)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Lee Dinan, Mina Keasler, Fr Jim Handerhan, Isabella Auer, Donald Nettleman, Kenneth Levesque, Levi Ray, John Minjares, Sr., Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Vinita Kelley, 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

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| 4:00 p.m. Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time | Deut 30:10-14, Col 1:15-20, Lk 10:25-37 |
| 9:00 a.m. Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time | Deut 30:10-14, Col 1:15-20, Lk 10:25-37 |
| 10:45 a.m. Fifth Sunday After Pentecost | 1Pet 3:8-15, Mt 5:20-24 |

These are Interesting Times

Having just celebrated, or for some continuing to celebrate, Independence Day the topic of freedom or liberty should be fresh in our minds. This day celebrates freedom from British rule, freedom from tyranny, and the unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But what does freedom really mean? Is this something we are prone to get right, that is, properly understanding freedom, or we likely to misunderstand what freedom truly means?

There are many ways to understand or define human freedom. For example, the ancient Greek philosopher Plato saw freedom as a triumph of rationality over irrationality. In this sense, freedom applies only to mankind because man is the only rational creature (except for angels). Animals are not capable of freedom because they lack an intellect to know and a will to freely choose. Their behavior is ruled by instinct and by the senses. Indeed, animals are enslaved to that their instincts tell them to do and to the desires or aversions that arise based on what their senses perceive. For man, Plato argues that freedom means rising above what we might be prone or to drawn to do. This means conquering our desires, which are not always rational, by choosing what is rational and therefore truly good. For example, a man might desire to go to a so-called gentleman's club. Submitting to the desire would be enslavement to the senses and his base desires. Eschewing the gentleman's club would be an act of freedom, choosing the rational over the sensual desires. A woman might be tempted to slander a rival so as to succeed. Going forth with the slander is slavery to her desires, while refraining from damaging the other's reputation is the rational overcoming the irrational desire to excel by hurting another.

St Thomas Aquinas goes a step further than what Plato understood to be human freedom. Like Plato he taught that Christian freedom is the intellect triumphing over the irrational, but Aquinas adds the key ingredient of virtue. So, the truly free man, drawn to what he might experience in the gentleman's club or its online equivalent, rejects the desire not only because his reason tells him that his desire is out of place and disordered but also because it would be against the virtues of prudence, chastity, justice, modesty, and most importantly, charity. The woman, tempted to slander another, would choose to do otherwise not only because slander is irrational, but it is also a violation of the virtues of prudence, honesty, integrity, justice, and again, charity. Here, freedom is the ability to choose that which is good, rational, virtuous, and loving. For Plato, freedom without rationality is incomprehensible. For St Thomas, freedom requires that both rationality and virtue triumph.

St Paul says much the same thing: *"Therefore, sin must not reign over your mortal bodies so that you obey their desires. And do not present the parts of your bodies to sin as weapons for wickedness, but present yourselves to God as raised from the dead to life and the parts of your bodies to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace"* (Rom 6:12-14) and *"For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Gal 5:13-14). Indeed, many people see Christian morality as merely being enslaved to an oppressive list of do's and don'ts, a list of laws. No, understood properly, morality is placing our rationality over our fallen nature and enlightening that rationality with the virtue of love. In other words, freedom is living a moral life.

What a stark contrast that is to the common understanding of freedom and liberty. These concepts have become associated with fulfilling our desires, even our vilest desires, and doing what we want to do in whatever way we choose. Given this false idea of freedom, a man sees the gentleman's club as a right he can exercise because it is legal and pleasurable. The slanderous woman sees what she says or what she types as an exercise of her freedom of speech. However, given the amount of time many people are spending on the internet to see immoral images or to say uncharitable things in comment boxes, tweets, facepage, and the like, it is hard to say that such endeavors are true acts of freedom. Properly seen, they represent true enslavement to our baser irrational desires.

Fr Booth