

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 14th/March 15th 2019: Third Sunday of Lent



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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 Bessie K. Lawrence, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 15th to March 21st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jeremy Noblitt from March 22nd until March 28th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. this Friday but there will be no meal following stations. We will still have confessions following Stations.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

PARISH COUNCIL will not meet this month.

DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER: Bishop Baker has asked all in the diocese to pray and fast next Friday, March 20th for the sake of all of the infected and for the end of the spread of the coronavirus.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, March 21st. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at 9:15 a.m.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection next weekend for the Burse Club. The Burse Club helps fund the education of our seminarians.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT #1: This year we will collect various non-perishable items for the men in the Cenacolo addiction recovery center in Hanceville. For the fourth Sunday of Lent, we will collect men's toiletries – bar soap, disposable razors, shave cream, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT #2: For Lent we will collect canned goods for the homeless that will be distributed by the Franciscans. Please make sure the cans have a pull-top so using a can opener will not be necessary.

2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE (Revised): March 22nd (4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday); April 9th (Holy Thursday Sunday); April 12th (Easter Sunday); April 26th (2nd Sunday of Easter); May 3rd (3rd Sunday after Easter, First Communion); May 21st (Ascension Thursday); May 31st (Pentecost); Thursday, June 11th (Corpus Christi); June 21st (3rd Sunday of Pentecost); June 28th (4th Sunday of Pentecost); July 12th (6th Sunday after Pentecost); July 19th (7th Sunday of Pentecost); August 9th (10th Sunday after Pentecost); August 30th (13th Sunday of Pentecost); September 13th (15th Sunday after Pentecost); September 27th (17th Sunday after Pentecost); October 4th (18th Sunday of Pentecost); October 11th (19th Sunday of Pentecost); October 25th (Christ the King); Sunday, November 1st (All Saints); November 29th (1st Sunday of Advent); Tuesday, Tuesday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception); December 13th (3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday); Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$5285, \$205 were collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$1604 were collected for our Catholic schools.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, and John Gardiner. Please pray for more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

DATE FOR FIRST COMMUNION: First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 3rd at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. If you have a child that will be receiving First Communion, please contact Fr Booth. If you are not members of Blessed Sacrament, you must obtain the permission of your pastor for your child to receive First Communion here. Opportunities for first confessions will be offered prior to First Communion. So far we have only two children identified for First Communion.

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

Sat, Mar 14:	4:00 p.m.	† Pat Sullivan (by Daniel Meadows)
Sun, Mar 15:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Danny Rohling (by Grace Gagnon)
Mon, Mar 9	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Theresa Fernandes (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Mar 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Baby Pohorelsky (by the Gagnon Family)
Wed, Mar 11:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for the Labauve Family (by the Juneaus)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Martin Sertell (by Susan Sertell)
Thur, Mar 12:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Holden Family (by the Juneaus)
Fri, Mar 13:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Amy, Mickey & Cody (by the Juneaus)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Alison Juneau (by the Juneaus)
Sat, Mar 14:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Mathews Family (by the Juneaus)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Rick Juneau (by the Juneaus)
Sun, Mar 15:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Jennie Sciro (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Lee Gaissert, Lawrence Brandley, Don Williams, Roseanne Timpa, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Natalie Karen Caraccilo, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Laura Minjares, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Mina Keasler, Isabella Auer, Levi Ray, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, George Dunham, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, Cindy Little, Stan Trawick, David Henning, Loretta Mara, Lillie Rumore, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15

Mass Attendance

Given that the coronavirus is beginning to work its way into our country and now our state, it might not be bad time to consider the nature of our Sunday obligation. Briefly put, we have a moral obligation to attend Mass if we are able and otherwise not impeded: to deliberately fail to attend Mass when we are able and unimpeded is objectively a mortal sin, but to miss Mass when we are unable or impeded is not a sin. This obligation stems indirectly from the First Commandment (i.e., God comes first) and directly from the Third Commandment, which states “*Remember the sabbath day – keep it holy. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God. You shall not do any work, either you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your work animal, or the resident alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy*” (Ex 20:8-11). The Church has always taught that Mass attendance is an essential and irreplaceable part of fulfilling the Third Commandment.

The Third Commandment is a positive obligation, which means that we are obliged to do something as opposed to not doing something. The Fourth Commandment is also a positive obligation in that honoring our fathers and mothers requires us to do something if we are physically and morally able to do so. The other eight commandments require us to avoid doing something, such as not coveting or not murdering. It is always within our power to not do something, but doing something, like attending Mass or honoring our parents, might not be possible. In regards to Mass attendance, we might be unable due to our personal situation or we might be impeded by circumstances (e.g., dangerous weather) that apply to several or many.

For example, we are not obliged to attend Mass when we are sick, if we are attending to those who are sick, or we reasonably believe that we might be contagious. For coronavirus, contagiousness is touchy: one can be contagious before, during, and after having symptoms. How long after recovery one might be contagious is currently a matter of speculation. Likewise, one might have been exposed to the virus and might be contagious even before exhibiting symptoms, in which case quarantine makes sense if they are aware of having been exposed. Being contagious or the reasonable suspicion of being contagious makes someone unable to attend Mass even though they might be physically able. Prudence and love of neighbor are critical factors in making such a decision not to attend Mass. Likewise, the frail and anyone who might be endangered by a coronavirus infection can prudently choose to avoid exposure even if this means missing Mass.

In the current potential epidemic, some are impeded from attending Mass since the bishop has absolved certain people of the diocese from the Sunday obligation. Currently, those over 65, those who are vulnerable due to chronic medical conditions, those with compromised immune systems, those who care for the vulnerable, and anyone with who thinks they are infected or has been exposed are dispensed from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass. In the future, the bishop might extend this dispensation to all Catholics or he might even prohibit Mass attendance altogether. A pastor, however, generally cannot absolve every parishioner from the Sunday obligation unless the bishop has given him the authority to do so. A pastor can only absolve the Sunday obligation on an individual, case-by-case basis.

For the time being, if one is able and unimpeded from attending Mass, they should do so. Those who meet the criteria listed above should not attend. But there is no obligation to use the holy water, to exchange the sign of peace, to receive the Precious Blood, or even to receive Communion at all. For those able and unimpeded the basic obligation is to attend Mass and participate appropriately, but no one but the celebrating priest is obliged to receive Communion.

If we are unable or impeded from attending Mass, we still have the basic obligation to keep the sabbath holy to the best of our ability. Since Mass takes an hour or so, perhaps praying or reading the Bible for an hour might be a reasonable means of keeping the sabbath holy.

- Fr Booth

