

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>/March 7<sup>th</sup>: 2021: 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: 7:30 a.m. and 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: See Below**

**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.**

**COVID-19 RESPONSE, MASS & DEVOTIONS:** We have returned to an approximation of our normal weekend schedule with Mass inside the Church. We will have a 4:00 p.m. Saturday English Mass, a 9:00 a.m. Sunday English Mass, a 10:45 a.m. Sunday Latin Mass, and an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30 a.m. The additional Latin Mass is intended to aid in the social distancing, **which is the responsibility of those attending Mass.** Please be considerate. This additional Mass will continue as long as social distancing is necessary.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE, CONFESSIONS:** Until further notice, confessions will be done in the Church parking lot with Fr Booth in his car. Those wishing to confess can walk up individually maintaining a six-foot distance. Confessions will be offered at 3:30-3:55 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday at 7:00-7:25 a.m., 8:30-8:55 a.m., and 10:15-10:40 a.m.

**DISPENSATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION:** Per Bishop Raica, all Roman Catholics who reside in the diocese are **dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation through March 14<sup>th</sup>.** No one, especially the vulnerable, should feel obliged to attend Mass. This is almost certainly the last extension for the Covid dispensation. Those who are not at risk are encouraged to return to Mass.

**CHANGES TO THE MASS:** We will forgo the distribution of the Precious Blood, reception of which is ordinarily optional, and the sign of peace, the omission of which is also optional.

**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 Robert C. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 7<sup>th</sup> to until March 13<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Joseph Kelly from March 14<sup>th</sup> until March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will not be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass. Perhaps coffee and donuts will resume in May.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> it will be at 2:30 p.m.). No meal will follow stations but we will have confessions following Stations.

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

**FIRST COMMUNION DATE:** First Communion will be on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Opportunities for first confession will be provided on several occasions prior to First Communion.

**CONFIRMATION DATE:** Confirmation will be on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be three classes offered for the confirmandi tentatively scheduled for Sundays May 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last weekend was \$7804 and \$375 was donated to the Preservation Fund.

**2021 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE:** The High Mass schedule for the 10:45 a.m. Mass will be as follows: Every second, third, and fourth Sunday of the month excluding Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>) and December 26<sup>th</sup> with the addition of the Annunciation (March 25<sup>th</sup>), Holy Thursday (April 1<sup>st</sup>), Easter Sunday (April 4<sup>th</sup>), Corpus Christi (June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Confirmation), All Saints (November 1<sup>st</sup>), All Souls (November 2<sup>nd</sup>), Immaculate Conception (December 8<sup>th</sup>), and Christmas (December 25<sup>th</sup>).

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is about a four-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

**MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS:** (\*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Mar 6	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Diana Hancock (by Monica Duvall)
	4:00 p.m.	† Evelyn Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Mar 7:	7:30 a.m.	† Robert Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† William Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Mon, Mar 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Tues, Mar 9:	*8:30 a.m.	† Steven Michael Moran (by Mary Jane Kelly)
Wed, Mar 10:	*7:00 a.m.	† Kenneth Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Brent Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Thur, Mar 11:	*8:30 a.m.	† Clement Muck, Sr. Muck (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Mar 12:	*7:00 a.m.	† Wava Muck (by the Duvall Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Ardeth Ahlstrom (by the Duvall Family)
Sat, Mar 13	4:00 p.m.	† Charles Ahlstrom (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Mar 14:	7:30 a.m.	† Rex Ahlstrom (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Pedro Triana & Family (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Gail McMahon, Sarah Minjares, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Mary Cavanagh, Paul Minjares, Sr Miracles, Bob Wiseman, Bernita Hicks, Jerry Bryant, Eve Moore, Nida Hammond, Aaron Minjares, Hamp Schauer, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Mark Corley, Lee Gaissert, Lawrence Brandley, Don Williams, Roseanne Timpa, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Laura Minjares, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Levi Ray, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Paul Herrmann, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, George Dunham, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, 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
7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15
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

## *Follow*

Follow the science, they say. And they say this over and over and over. It has become a catch phrase, slogan, or mantra like ‘Loose lips sink ships,’ ‘Safety first,’ and ‘He who hesitates is lost.’ But what does it mean to follow the science? Is following the science always the best approach?

Following the science ought to be a safe, prudent, and rational choice. But not all that passes for science is actually science. Just consider the nutritional guidance we have been given since the early 1950s. At that time we had the four basic food groups – meat, dairy, fruits and vegetables, and breads and grains – and eating from all four groups represented a balanced diet. Technically, pizza fulfills this definition of a balanced diet. The low-fat food pyramid, published in the early 1990s, said our diet should consist primarily of rice, pasta, bread, and other carbs. Eggs, nuts, meat, oils, and sweets should be eaten with great moderation or avoided altogether. Since then the dietary advice has become less and less clear, but it is clear that the low-fat food pyramid was utterly wrong: we would have been better off without it.

Thus, following the science makes sense only when there is actual science from which to draw scientific conclusions. Since science involves scientists, science sometimes becomes less science and more wishful thinking, groupthink, or politics. Preconceived notions, bigotry, arrogance, fear, and a whole host of human fallibilities often produce unscientific science. For example, into the 1970s many anthropologists insisted that the three human races evolved separately such that Africans, Asians, and Caucasians never shared a common ancestor. There was no evidence for this beyond the bigotry of the scientists themselves. Likewise, atheistic scientists insisted that the universe was eternal to escape the possibility that an eternal Creator created an ephemeral universe. Zero evidence again, and the concept of the eternal universe had to be abandoned with the discovery of the Big Bang.

There have been times when following the science was not just a bad idea, but resulted in catastrophe. The Nazi scientists, using Nazi ideologies, were convinced that some human populations were in fact subhuman and that a superior population was meant to dominate or even enslave the lesser, weaker populations. Some populations were even scientifically declared to be unworthy of life. They could point to Darwinism and the selective breeding of domestic animals that has been practiced for centuries. The same type of thinking led to the development of eugenics programs in this country where marriage was regulated and people forcibly sterilized for the sake of genetic hygiene. They too could claim that they were following the science.

Does this mean that we should not follow the science? Not at all. We should follow the science when the science is well established and backed by objective, unbiased evidence. Opinion, conjecture, and even common sense are not the same as scientific evidence. It would be refreshing to hear caveats instead of absolutes when opinion, conjecture, or common sense are the primary basis for things like the 6-foot social distancing rule and the face covering mandates. It would be even more refreshing to see the science followed when it comes to human life. Science absolutely establishes and demonstrates that the human embryo and all subsequent stages of development represent a unique, living human being. Scientifically speaking, he or she has life, has human DNA, and is genetically unique from the first moment of conception. Follow the science and save millions of lives!

The history of science certainly contains some embarrassing and tragic episodes. We might hope that science progresses toward the good, but with humans at the wheel, this is not a given. So, to what degree should we follow the science? To the extent that it is the truth. If it is the truth, following the science is part of following Jesus. While science often dithers this way and that, we always ought to follow Jesus and His unchanging and unchangeable Gospel. Human knowledge will always be fallible and limited while also being subject to the corrupting power of money, ideology, and politics, but the Gospel suffers from none of these. Thus, our trust ought to be in Jesus and His promises more than what scientists say. After all, following the science, if it is truly science, can bring about longer lives, but following the Gospel is the only way to bring about eternal life.

- Fr Booth