

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 13th/March 14th: 2021: Fourth 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.

UPDATED DISPENSATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: Per Bishop Raica, all Roman Catholics who reside in the diocese are **dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation through May 23rd**. 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, who have already had Covid, who have been vaccinated, and who have otherwise returned to a more normal life 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 Joseph Kelly, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 14th to until March 20th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bessie K. Lawrence from March 21st until March 27th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, March 20th. 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.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers following the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Tentatively, the potluck will resume in April.

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 2nd 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 this weekend for the Burse Club, which helps to fund the education of our seminarians.

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

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$10247 and \$555 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 28th) and December 26th with the addition of the Annunciation (March 25th), Holy Thursday (April 1st), Easter Sunday (April 4th), Corpus Christi (June 3rd, Confirmation), All Saints (November 1st), All Souls (November 2nd), Immaculate Conception (December 8th), and Christmas (December 25th).

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 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)
Mon, Mar 15: *8:30 a.m. † Andrew Walther (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Mar 16: *8:30 a.m. † Dorothy Sampedro (by the Sampedros)
Wed, Mar 17: *7:00 a.m. † Edmund Sampedro (by the Sampedros)
*8:30 a.m. † Delores Sampedro (by the Sampedros)
Thur, Mar 18: *8:30 a.m. † Celia Sampedro (by the Sampedros)
Fri, Mar 19: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Courtney Kynard (Mary Claire Mathews)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Courtney Kynard (Mary Claire Mathews)
Sat, Mar 20 9:15 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
4:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Mar 21: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Baumbach Family (by Diane Penney)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Edward J. Penney (by Diane Penney)

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

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| 4:00 p.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent | Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, Jn 12:20-33 |
| 7:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent | Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59 |
| 9:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent | Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, Jn 12:20-33 |
| 10:45 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent | Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59 |

Follow Humbly

When it comes to following the science, there is no better place to do so than with regard to human life itself. Again, the human embryo is exactly that, human. The human embryo displays every sign that distinguishes life from non-life, animate matter from inanimate matter. Life is present at the cellular level from conception and on the level of an individual organism comprised of multiple cells soon after conception. After a few cell divisions, cells that will form the placenta differentiate from the baby's cells. Four days into the life of the baby those cells that are not destined to form the placenta begin to differentiate into the various organs and systems of the human body. Three weeks after fertilization, an early form of the circulatory system is present to the extent that the heart begins to beat and pump blood. The point is that there is no time from the moment of conception onward that the embryo is anything other than human. That is the undisputed science. The science ought to be recognized. The science ought to be followed.

Similarly, science also tells us that the gender of the developing baby is set and unchanging from the moment of conception. Depending on which specific sperm happens to fertilize the egg, either a male or female human being results. No ambiguity exists under normal circumstances. People have been taught that we all start out as female and at a later point maleness becomes expressed. Not so. The gender is present at conception even if structures unique to one gender or the other develop some time after conception. That is the undisputed science. The science ought to be recognized. The science ought to be followed.

Only under rare circumstances (about 1 in 100,000) does the developing baby have ambiguous gender due to specific genetic defects present in both parents. People suffering from ambiguous gender may or may not develop characteristics of both genders and they will generally be burdened with infertility. Other genetic issues cause much the same outcome. However, sharing both male and female genetic and physical characteristics does not mean that this represents a third gender or even a spectrum of genders. Sharing in characteristics of both genders is just that: there is no physical feature uniquely neither male nor female so as to suggest another gender, just characteristics of both genders. That is the undisputed science. The science ought to be recognized. The science ought to be followed.

By not following the science we have arrived at a place where babies can be slaughtered in the womb, and increasingly, outside the womb. We have people choosing whether they are male or female even though their gender was determined at the moment of conception. We have people inventing genders that don't exist. We currently have, by some accounts, up to 63 genders. Because we are not following the science, there will surely be even more invented genders next year and more the year after that. Because we are not following the science, we are now seeing some men wanting to compete as women, and to a lesser degree, some women wanting to compete as men in various sports.

Taking the absurd social and political climate we currently find ourselves in, do we then eliminate gender as a factor in sports altogether such that women's and men's basketball simply becomes basketball where anyone can be on the team, or do we expand the idea of what basketball ought to be by creating 63 specific leagues, 2 for God-given genders and 61 man-invented genders? Certain university football programs might crave the idea of not just winning the national championship, but being able to win as many as 63 championships in a single year.

In any case, this absurdity all comes about because of human pride. In our pride we think we can wield god-like power over human life, defining who is to live and who is to die. In our pride we think we can define or redefine ourselves as we see fit as if we were our own creator. We might be fooled into thinking we have such power given that medical science can render a man a 'woman' and a woman a 'man,' sort of. Soon we will be declaring red to be blue, up to be down, five to be seven, and so forth. It might seem to be odd or even an absurdity, but humbly following Christ ought to make truly following the science – if it is science in the first place – that much easier.

- Fr Booth