

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 21st/August 22nd:2021: 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
13th 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: 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 an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30, which is intended to aid in the social distancing, and will continue on a provisional basis.

COVID-19 RESPONSE, CONFESSIONS: Confessions have returned to the confessional. 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.

NOTE ON CONFESSIONS: If there is a significant line for confession, Fr Booth might say part of the formula of absolution while the penitent recites the act of contrition. The full formula of absolution is always said, but the first part might be said softly during the act of contrition.

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 Helen Von Hagel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 22nd to August 28th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Kathryn Mabee from August 29th until September 4th.

REST IN PEACE: Charlie Carruba, husband of Annette Carruba, passed away on August 7th. His Funeral will be at Blessed Sacrament on Saturday, September 4th. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. until noon with the Funeral Mass immediately following. 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.

SPECIAL THANKS: Thank you to all who contributed to defray the costs of Mary Cavanaugh's funeral expenses. The excess amount will be donated to the Preservation Fund.

TRADITIONIS CUSTODES: In response to Pope Francis' recent *motu proprio* letter on the Latin Mass, Bishop Raica has graciously authorized and approved the continuation of the Latin Mass here at Blessed Sacrament.

PILGRIMAGE: Join Fr Bryan Jerabek of the Cathedral of St Paul on a pilgrimage this November 13th to 23rd through the south of France. This trip features visits to some of the most incredible places and the holiest shrines found in France, including Toulouse, Lourdes, Rocamadour, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, Cotignac, Sainte-Baume, Carcassonne and Nice. Space is limited to forty pilgrims total. For more information please visit the trip webpage at prorometours.com/france

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Andrew Vickery, John Paul Stepnowski, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Adam Sellers, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

2021 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: The High Mass schedule for the 10:45 a.m. Mass is as follows: Every second, third, and fourth Sunday of the month excluding December 26th with the addition of All Saints (Monday, November 1st), All Souls (Tuesday, November 2nd), Immaculate Conception (Wednesday, December 8th), and Christmas (Saturday, December 25th).

GAIL MCMAHON, our organist for 20 years, has retired due to health considerations. Get Well and Thank You cards can be sent c/o Ann Rodgers, 5031 Stratford Rd, Bham 35242.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$8373 and \$2615 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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

- Sat, Aug 21 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Amy Juneau (by the Juneaus)
 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for the Jones Family (by Mary & Betty Mason)
- Sun, Aug 22: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Minjares Family (by the Juneaus)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
 10:45 a.m. † William Lang (by the Tyler Family)
- Mon, Aug 23: *8:30 a.m. † Dickey Montalbano (by Marian & Bill Dinan)
- Tues, Aug 24: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Kathleen Purvis (by the Tyler Family)
- Wed, Aug 25: *7:00 a.m. † Marie Ferino (by Lynn Bryant)
 *8:30 a.m. † Mark Franks (by Lynn Bryant)
- Thur, Aug 26: *8:30 a.m. † Dino Ffiles (by Lynn Bryant and Julie Bryant)
- Fri, Aug 27: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for the Pinter Family (by Tom & Paula Pinter)
 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ari Fogelman (by Tom & Paula Pinter)
- Sat, Aug 28 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for the Jones Family (by Mary & Betty Mason)
- Sun, Aug 29: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Isabel, Sophia, Sarah, Gabriel, and Joseph Pinter (by Tom & Paula Pinter)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
 10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Catherine & Jeff Hahn (by the Pinter Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Virginia Bullock, Gloria Archambault, Anthony Morris, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Sister Miracles, Bob Wiseman, Jerry Bryant, Eve Moore, Nida Hammond, Aaron Minjares, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Don Williams, Roseanne Timpa, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, 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. 22nd Sunday in OT Deut 4:1-2,6-8, James 1:17-18,21-22,27, Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
- 7:30 a.m. 14th Sunday after Pentecost Gal 5:16-24, Mt 6:24-33
- 9:00 a.m. 22nd Sunday in OT Deut 4:1-2,6-8, James 1:17-18,21-22,27, Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
- 10:45 a.m. 14th Sunday after Pentecost Gal 5:16-24, Mt 6:24-33

The Lens of the Gospel

As noted two weeks ago, the Transfiguration was a life-changing event that must have altered how Peter, James, and John saw everything thereafter. It is unlikely that Peter, James, or John could convey what they saw in a way that would have changed the lives of Andrew, Matthew, or anyone else. After all, does reading the Gospel accounts of the Transfiguration truly change our lives? Accounts of Paul's vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus and the visions of heaven he alludes to in Second Corinthians chapter 12 would probably be equally confounding to anyone who did not experience them. John makes an attempt describe his heavenly visions in the book of Revelation, which continues to be fairly incomprehensible for many people. In any case, such events constitute avenues of enlightenment, an awakening for those who experience them. Awakening happens at a more pedestrian level for most of us. For example, when we really begin to believe in the Gospel, when we began to live it more fully, it is hard to look at the world in the same way as before. The Gospel becomes the lens through which we see the world and to one degree or another it provides us with many answers.

However, mankind, increasingly blind to the truths of the Gospel, will seek solutions to our problems, both personal and societal, through technological, political, and legal means. Apart from God, we will seek a human solution on our own that often fails, and sometimes fails quite tragically. For example, it was in man's ability to wipe out the scourge of HIV in the course of a decade or two. We chose a medical and primarily political approach when the answer was obviously a moral solution a moral problem. AIDS is a disease that has been and remains almost infallibly preventable by following God's moral law, yet after 40 years the moral dimension to ending the HIV epidemic is more unwelcome than ever. Behavior modification was off the table for that virus, but it certainly is on the table with covid. Universal masking, social distancing, and shutdowns were the norm. The world is urging universal vaccination, even compelled vaccination, with a vaccine that is largely untested and whose long-term side effects are unknown and unknowable, even urging vaccinating those already immune and those who are very unlikely to suffer more than mild symptoms. There is growing talk of vaccination passports for covid. What if something like a passport was developed for AIDS? What if contact tracing was imposed on all who are HIV-positive? What if an experimental AIDS vaccine was compelled upon the entire population, most of whom are not at risk? Worldly people would entirely lose their worldly minds!

In other words, seeing the world correctly is essential to engaging the world correctly. Seeing one another correctly is probably even more essential. How can we treat one another correctly if we don't see one another correctly? Indeed, how can we panic over a disease with a 99% or so recovery rate while choosing to basically ignore a disease that has nearly a 100% fatality rate for those who go untreated and about 34% fatality rate when treated with modern medicine? It might be that everyone is vulnerable to one disease and few are vulnerable to another that makes it seem acceptable for panic in one case and for complacency in the other. But can such complacency be consistent with the Gospel especially when the Gospel would save many lives and many more souls? Can people simply be written off when they are 'not us,' or can we say something is a crisis only when we are in jeopardy?

It is becoming more of a mantra and may soon become a hard and fast legal mandate that all get vaccinated against covid for the sake of others, with the unspoken justification being that we are our brother's keeper. We are our brother's keeper for covid but not for AIDS? Are we not our brother's keeper when it comes to other threats as well? What about the thousands of Americans and the millions of Afghans essentially written off by gormless halfwits in Washington? Some of these halfwits see the situation in Afghanistan, a crisis of their own making, as a political crisis, not a moral or human crisis. Leaving innocents, especially women and girls, at the mercy of murderous barbarians who make Hitler look like a boy scout might be a political calculation, but such a calculation would be impossible when seen correctly through the lens of the Gospel.

- Fr Booth