

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 19th/March 20th 2022: 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 an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30, which is intended to aid in the social distancing, and will continue on a provisional basis.

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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. Thus, you might only hear “and I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

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 20th to March 26th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Steve Melendel from March 27th until April 2nd.

WELCOME SR ISABEL: Again we are blessed with a new sister, Sr Isabel, who arrived last week. Please welcome her.

REFINISHING THE BALDACHIN: The Bishop has approved the professional polishing of the bronze baldachin over the High Altar. Work has begun and should take three to four weeks.

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.

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 15th it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

ANNUNCIATION: For the Solemnity of the Annunciation, which is on Friday, March 25th, we will have English Mass in the Rectory at 8:30 a.m. and a Low Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m. following Stations. There will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass on March 25th.

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.

2022 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 Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 10th) with the addition of Holy Thursday (Thursday, April 14th), Pentecost (Sunday, June 5th), Corpus Christi (Thursday, June 16th), Christ the King (Sunday, October 30th), All Saints (Tuesday, November 1st), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week and the previous week was \$5887 and \$155 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: For 2022, First Communion is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 15th.

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

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

- Sat, Mar 19: 4:00 p.m. † Charlie Carruba (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Mar 20: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Judy Rohling (by the Rumore Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Beth & Eddie Mathews (by Terry & Charlotte Rumore)
Mon, Mar 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mario Villarreal (by Sophie Duvall)
Tues, Mar 22: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Claire Mathews (by Mary Margaret Rumore)
Wed, Mar 23: *7:00 a.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
*8:30 a.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Thur, Mar 24: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jose & Clara Hernandez (by the Hall Family)
Fri, Mar 25: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Samantha Hernandez (by the Hall Family)
6:30 p.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sat, Mar 26: 4:00 p.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Mar 27: 7:30 a.m. † Johnny Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Mamie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Gloria Archambault, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, 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

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| 4:00 p.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent | Josh 5:9,10-12, 2Cor 5:17-21, Lk 15:1-3,11-32 |
| 7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent | Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15 |
| 9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent | Josh 5:9,10-12, 2Cor 5:17-21, Lk 15:1-3,11-32 |
| 10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent | Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15 |

St Joseph

“After three days [Joseph and Mary] found [Jesus] in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.’ And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what he said to them” (Lk 2:46-50). These verses detail the last time St Joseph appears in the Gospels. Yes, Joseph is mentioned several times after this, but he is never again present after Jesus is found in the temple. The Scriptures imply by his ongoing absence and Christian tradition has continuously confirmed from the earliest days of the Church that Joseph passed away prior to the start of Jesus’s public ministry. Joseph, a just and righteous man, did not live long enough to see his adopted Son teach or perform any miracles.

So how long did St Joseph live? Some argue that he was already elderly when he married Mary. They cynically argue that Mary’s perpetual virginity was preserved in part because of Joseph’s advanced years as if he would have lacked the virtue to constrain himself had he been a younger man. What a low opinion of Joseph, what a low opinion of the power of God’s grace. It seems more likely that Joseph was a similar age as Mary and died relatively young, but not before Jesus’s carpentry skills could provide for Himself and for Mary. Perhaps Jesus would have been in His late teens when Joseph died, putting Joseph in his mid to late forties. Thus, it appears likely that Joseph died fairly young.

Why wasn’t Joseph blessed with a good long life? A long life was considered a blessing in the Old Testament. After all, Abraham lived 175 years, Isaac 180 years, Jacob 147 years, Moses 120 years, Joshua 110 years, and so on. To die in your forties would not be regarded as a blessing but more of a tragedy or misfortune. Given that Jesus could heal and even raise people from death, why did the young Jesus sit by and watch His earthly father die? How tough this must have been for Jesus and Mary. Tough on Mary watching her beloved husband die when Joseph’s own adopted Son is the Author of Life. Tough on Jesus for not using His divine power to save His own earthly father from dying at an early age.

We must remember, however, Jesus never used His power for selfish purposes, but only to accomplish the will of His heavenly Father. Nor were His miracles a matter of mere altruism or mere sentimentality. Otherwise, how many people Jesus might have been raised from the dead? How many maladies might have been eliminated from the face of the earth by Jesus? Humanly speaking, Jesus could easily have wanted Joseph to live longer. Altruistically speaking, He might have wanted Joseph to live longer for the sake of His mother. But none of these were the will of the Father. The key to understanding why Joseph passed away before Jesus began His ministry was not that the Father arbitrarily willed Joseph to die young, but it was necessary for Jesus’ ministry.

First, it witnesses to why Jesus became one of us: not to give us long or happy lives on earth but eternal lives in heaven. Indeed, Joseph is the patron saint of a happy death, and that happy death is not a matter of living a long happy life, but dying at any age in the presence of Jesus and Mary. In other words, a happy death is any death where we leave this world while we are in God’s good graces, when we are fully reconciled to the Father through the Son so that we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, Joseph’s early death helps Jesus witness to the reality of the Trinity. When Jesus talks about His Father, especially in the present tense, it needs to be clear that He is not talking about Joseph. Having a living earthly father stands in the way of people understanding Who Jesus is. Indeed, those who knew the Holy Family in Nazareth dismissively say *“Isn’t this the son of Joseph?”* (Lk 4:22) just before they try to throw Jesus off a cliff. This familiarity with St Joseph hinders their faith in Jesus and makes it almost impossible for them to understand that Jesus was the Son of God before He was the son of Joseph. For us, however, prayerful familiarity with St Joseph is hardly a hindrance to faith, but helps lead us to his divine foster Son and a happy death.

- Fr Booth