

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 26th/March 27th 2022: 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 an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30, which is intended to aid in the social distancing, and will continue on a provisional basis.

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 Steve Melendel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 27th until April 2nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Theodore Curtis from April 3rd until April 9th.

REFINISHING THE BALDACHIN: Work on the baldachin is wrapping up with only the refinishing of the altar’s marble steps remaining to be completed.

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.).

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on April 1st at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: Assuming that the work on the baldachin and high altar is complete, First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on April 2nd.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

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 \$8962 and \$205 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 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)
Mon, Mar 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Aric & Anna Pohorelsky (by the Donellans)
Tues, Mar 29: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Anthony Stanley (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Mar 30: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Allison Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Allison Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Mar 31: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Zachary Archer (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Apr 1: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Schlenker Family (by the Donellan Family)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for John Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Apr 2: 8:30 a.m. Private Intention
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Lena Clare Cook (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Apr 3: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Runge Family (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Mathews Family (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Gloria Archambault, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahan, 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

4:00 p.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11
7:30 a.m. First Passion Sunday Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59
9:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11
10:45 a.m. First Passion Sunday Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59

Holy Days of Obligation

About this time every year I ask why isn't the Annunciation a Holy Day of Obligation? Isn't it an important feast? Yes it is, but the Church has identified a number of Holy Days of Obligation, various feasts that typically occur or always occur on days other than Sunday. Some of these feasts land on fixed dates while others occur a fixed number of days after another event or feast. The complete list of Holy Days of Obligation in the Church is as follows: the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ (December 25th), the Epiphany (January 6th), the Ascension (40 days after Easter), the Body and Blood of Christ (Thursday after Trinity Sunday), Holy Mary the Mother of God (January 1st), the Immaculate Conception (December 8th), the Assumption (August 15th), Saint Joseph (March 19th), Saints Peter and Paul the Apostles (June 29th), and All Saints (November 1st). It might seem odd that Easter and Pentecost are not on this list, but since they always land on a Sunday, they need not be listed since all Sundays are Holy Days of Obligation.

The ten current universal Holy Days of Obligation were established in 1917. From 1911 to 1917, however, there were only eight, but prior to 1911 there were thirty-six Holy Days of Obligation, which did include the Annunciation. Prior to 1983, all Catholics were obliged to observe all Holy Days of Obligation (whether 36, 8, or 10). After 1983, the bishops of each country were allowed to tailor the list to match the circumstances and piety of their nation. In most cases, the bishops chose to reduce the number of Holy Days. Thus, some countries have all ten, some have as few as two. Some countries also chose to add feasts to the list of Holy Days, such as Ireland adding St Patrick's day. The American Bishops chose to have six: Mary Mother of God, Ascension, Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate Conception, and Christmas. Some feasts retained their dates despite being removed from the list (Saint Joseph, Saints Peter and Paul) while others were moved to the following Sunday (Epiphany, Corpus Christi). Most dioceses have also moved Ascension to the following Sunday, making for five Holy Days. To confuse matters further, if a Holy Day lands on a Saturday or Monday, it ceases to be obligatory that year. This does not apply for the Immaculate Conception or Christmas, which in the United States are always Holy Days of Obligation no matter on what day of the week they fall.

Currently the Holy Days of Obligation, no matter how many or how few they might be, are not being taken all that seriously. This is true among the clergy and the laity alike. Some priests simply have their normal daily Mass schedule on Holy Days, which might, but often does not, accommodate those who have to work or attend school. Likewise, some parochial schools don't offer Mass on Holy Days unless they happen to fall on the day they normally have their school Mass. When challenged, the priest will generally rationalize their not adding Masses on Holy Days of Obligation because few people would come. Or the priest will say that people can go to other parishes that might have more convenient Mass schedules. While it is generally the case in larger cities that one might be able to find a Mass at another parish, it still sends a message that Mass attendance on Holy Days of Obligation is not a serious obligation, or not an obligation at all. The people often pick up on this and don't take Mass attendance seriously because their priest is not taking it seriously. The people can't help but draw this conclusion in small towns where there are no options to attend Mass at another church: if the priest does not provide a Mass schedule that accommodates the people, the people can't help but conclude that Holy Days of Obligation are no big deal.

The clergy are not entirely responsible for people not taking Holy Days as seriously as they should. Is it likely that the people will take Holy Day attendance seriously if they don't take Sunday Mass attendance seriously? As it stands today, 20-25% of American Catholics attend Mass on Sunday. This figure might have actually fallen as a result of the covid shutdowns. Either way, if Sunday Mass attendance is not a priority for a significant fraction of Catholics, returning to church less than a week later for a Holy Day of Obligation, perhaps offered at a truly inconvenient time, would seem to be an even lower priority. Given these tendencies, one might cynically wonder if the bishops will just abolish Holy Days of Obligation altogether. After all, it is easier to lower the bar than to raise it up. - Fr Booth