

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**February 25<sup>th</sup>/February 26<sup>th</sup> 2023: First 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, Wednesday, and Friday**

**Latin Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 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: Saturday 3:30-3:55 p.m., Sunday 7:00-7:25, 8:30-8:55, and 10:15- 10:40 a.m.**

**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, to aid in social distancing, and continues 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.”

**ADDITIONAL NOTE ON CONFESSIONS:** Beginning in Lent we will begin using a new formula for absolution that reads: “God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and **poured out** the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God **grant** you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Changes in Bold).

**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 Salvatore and Mary Riccardi, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert C. Bryant from March 5<sup>th</sup> until March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** We will have our First Friday English Mass on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 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 7<sup>th</sup> it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$5487 and \$1775 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

**FIRST COMMUNION DATE:** Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date for First Communion. Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> is also another opportunity for First Communion. First confessions and rehearsals will be held on the preceding Saturday.

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

**PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS:** Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Daniel Sessions, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, John Paul Stepnowski, Andrew Vickery, Hunter Limbaugh, Adam Sellers, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

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

Sat, Feb 25: 4:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
Sun, Feb 26: 7:30 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Rebecca Fernandes (by the Rumore Family)  
Mon, Feb 27: \*8:30 a.m. † Pope Benedict XVI  
Tues, Feb 28: \*8:30 a.m. † Katie Newell (by the Hahns & the Meekers)  
Wed, Mar 1: \*8:30 a.m. † Catherine Lester Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)  
Thur, Mar 2: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Fr Mackey (by the Duryea Family)  
Fri, Mar 3: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Andrew Duryea (by the Duryea Family)  
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Alex Brueggan (by the Duryea Family)  
Sat, Mar 4: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Gabriel Bianca (by the Duryea Family)  
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Michael Keeney (by the Duryea Family)  
Sun, Mar 5: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Christine Duryea (by the Duryea Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Griffin Rooker (by the Duryea Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Ann Slovensky, Debbie Trussell, Friar Pietro, Mary Simmons, Victoria Sanderson, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Sam Montalbano, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahan, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Aaron Minjares, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

**NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS**

4:00 p.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 12:1-4, 2Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 12:1-4, 2Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

## *Temptation*

Adam and Eve were created sinless and in the Garden of Eden their every need was satisfied. They needed no shoes because nothing they stepped on could harm their feet. They needed no clothes because the Garden shielded them from sunburns and it never got cold. They lacked no food since the Garden provided them more food than they could eat. Adam and Eve lacked nothing spiritually as well. They were created in a spiritual relationship with God that none of us enjoy today. They could converse with God just as we can talk with one another. They even could walk in the Garden with God. If they wanted to know something, all they had to do was ask. But having everything that they needed was not enough. Satan tempted them with something they did not need and something they could not have, yet they fell through temptation.

The Jews in the desert, after being liberated from over 400 years of enslavement, fell into temptation after temptation. Although God had done unmistakable miracles to free them from the Egyptians, they doubted that He could provide for them in the desert. He provided the Manna for them, but they wanted meat, vegetables, and spices so much so that they longed to return to captivity. And when it came time for them to enter into the Promised Land, they rejected it for fear of the people in the land. They doubted that the God who liberated them from the mighty and powerful Egyptians could vanquish the much less numerous and much weaker peoples that occupied the Promised Land.

Temptation was the undoing of Adam and Eve. Temptation was the undoing of the Chosen People. We can look upon Adam, Eve, and the Jews and say that we would be different, that we would not have fallen for such temptations. We would simply be fooling ourselves. Temptation is a daily part of our lives. There is no escaping it. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, and we are also subject to his enticements. Since we have a fallen nature we do not need someone to introduce temptations into our lives. After all, the Chosen People fell to temptation after temptation in the desert but the Scriptures make no mention of them being tempted by the devil. Like them, we are self-tempting.

The Scriptures do tell us that the Jews were hardened of heart and stiff-necked. Are we any different? Are we any better? We would be fooling ourselves if we said yes. In a certain way we are worse off than Adam and Eve. We are worse off than the Jews in the desert. We are worse off because most of us have our basic needs provided for more today than at any time in human history since Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden. And yet we suffer temptation after temptation.

Jesus was tempted by Satan as He fasted for forty days. This is sort of a replay of what happened in the Garden of Eden. Satan thought he could bring Jesus down and in doing so he thought he could undo the Father's plan for our salvation. It only took a moment to bring mankind down in the Garden of Eden, but forty days and forty nights were not enough to topple Jesus. It only took one temptation to make Adam and Eve fall, but Satan tempted Jesus in every possible way without victory. Being fully human, Jesus was indeed subject to temptation. Being fully divine, however, Jesus has no needs since everything is ultimately His already. Jesus could desire, but He knew that His human desires had nothing to do with His mission to reconcile us to God the Father. His only legitimate desire was to do the will of the Father, a desire that Satan could not hijack.

We should remember that our most legitimate desire is not for the things of this world. Our desire should be like that of Jesus, desiring to do the will of the Father. No flashy car, no electronic device, no bodily pleasure, no worldly honor is going to bring us closer to the Father. Thus, we fast like Jesus to gain mastery over our desires. We fast and give up good things in this world to help us recognize the important distinction between what we truly need and what we might desire. We fast to help us understand that our greatest need is to be reconciled with God and that our greatest desire must be doing the will of the Father. Any other need or desire is superfluous in comparison. Indeed, if we think any other need or any other desire comes first, then we have fallen just like Adam, Eve, or the Jews in the desert.

- Fr Booth