

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 11th/March 12th 2023: 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, 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 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 Tom Davis, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 12th to March 18th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bessie K. Lawrence from March 19th until March 25th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, March 17th. 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 about 9:15 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. Since there will be a reception for the First Communicants and their guests, **there will not be the usual third Sunday potluck following the 10:45 Mass.**

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: ~~Sunday, April 23rd is the date for First Communion.~~ Sunday, March 19th is now the date for First Communion. First confessions and rehearsals will be held on Saturday, March 18th at 10:30 a.m.

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 7th it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$8695 and \$700 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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, Mar 11: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Susan Reeves (by the Rumore Family)
Sun, Mar 12: 7:30 a.m. † Matthew Clune (by the Rumore Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Rebecca Fernandes (by the Rumore Family)
Mon, Mar 13: *8:30 a.m. † Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Mar 14: *8:30 a.m. † Mamie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Mar 15: *8:30 a.m. † Johnny Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Mar 16: *8:30 a.m. † Johnny Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Mar 17: *8:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Sat, Mar 18: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Allison Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Aric & Anna Pohorelsky (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Mar 19: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Anthony Stanley (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for John Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jeff Brown, 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 McMahon, 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. Fourth Sunday of Lent	1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41
7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15

Picking Up the Spiritual Pieces

Witnessing the Transfiguration greatly changed Peter, James, and John. They could never have seen anything like this vision, and the description we get in the Gospels falls well short of conveying what the experience was like. Only the Resurrection would have competed with the Transfiguration. Granted, the Resurrection was far more momentous than anything else in human history, but the Transfiguration was a totally unique experience. After Jesus rose from the dead, His body appeared like it was before His arrest on Holy Thursday, excepting the five wounds in His hands, feet, and side. Other than these wounds His body looked natural enough to be mistaken for that of an ordinary man. The transfigured Jesus, however, showed forth His heavenly splendor in a way that could not be mistaken as ordinary.

Thus, these three Apostles would never be the same. They could never see the world the same either. A soldier returning home to a city destroyed by bombing could pine for the way things used to be before the onset of war. Nostalgia would be natural under such circumstances. ‘The library used to be three streets over. It was right next to the coffee shop and across from the tailor.’ We even reminisce this way over cities and neighborhoods that have not been destroyed. Neighborhoods and cities naturally evolve, becoming better or worse, becoming more modern or suffering the decay of age.

After the Transfiguration, however, could Peter, James, and John have seen anything the same way? In this case, it was they that changed, not their surroundings. They would see their fellow Apostles differently. They would see everyone else differently. They would certainly see Jesus differently. The same effect would happen to all of the Apostles after the Resurrection. People, cities, and the whole world would be seen in a new light.

Before Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time, one of the Apostles says “*Look, teacher, what stones and what buildings!*” Jesus responds, saying “*Do you see these great buildings? There will not be one stone left upon another that will not be thrown down*” (Mk 13:1-2). Would Jerusalem have been as impressive to Peter, James, and John after the Transfiguration? Unlikely. After the Resurrection, would the other Apostles have been awestruck by the splendor of Jerusalem? Probably less so than before. Almost forty years in the future when the Romans leveled Jerusalem, not leaving stone upon stone, it would have been even less impressive.

After the Fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, the people would have to pick up the pieces just like everyone else confronted with a destroyed city. Or they could have gone elsewhere or simply given up, letting despair win. Undoubtedly, they could not easily bring back the same grandeur that existed prior to the destruction. Even before the city’s destruction, Peter, James, and John would have seen a city in need of Jesus, a city in need of a Savior. This was even more the case after the Resurrection.

Seeing things in light of the Gospel changes how things appear. Yes, a city might have wonderful architecture or spectacular buildings, but what is a magnificent edifice populated by people ignorant of God? Was ancient Jerusalem a beautiful city ignorant of God? Not entirely, but they did reject the Messiah and the Gospel, indicating that their knowledge of God was defective. Ancient Rome was no doubt stunning, but it was populated almost entirely by pagans. Today, what could we say about Washington, DC? Yes, some believers live there, but increasingly sin and corruption reign. Las Vegas? Again, there are believers there, but it has certainly earned the nickname of Sin City. Modern Paris, Rome, Prague, Barcelona, or Edinburgh? Much the same can be said of these cities too.

In other words, many of the cities we live in have not been destroyed physically by war but have been increasingly ravaged by iniquity, sin, and unbelief. Through the eyes of faith enlightened by the Gospel – and by the Transfiguration in the case of Peter, James, and John – we can see the moral and spiritual devastation around us. Seeing the degree of sin and unbelief in the ancient world motivated the Apostles to evangelize. Given the scope of the situation, they could have let despair win, thinking that the task was just too big. Looking around us today, we see a problem of similar magnitude. Thus, we need to do our best to pick up the spiritual pieces of a fallen culture and society. Yes, this is a tall order, but we must not fall into despair. With God’s help, there is always hope. - Fr Booth