

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 13th / May 14th 2023: Sixth Sunday of Easter (English)

Fifth Sunday After Easter (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, 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.”

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 August & Josephine Nettleman, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from May 14th until May 20th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Sr. from May 21st until May 27th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, May 20th. 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. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: For the Latin Mass, the Feast of the Ascension occurs on Thursday, May 18th. For English, it occurs on Sunday, May 21st. Since the English Mass has been transferred to the following Sunday, the Ascension is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nevertheless, we will have a Latin High Mass on Thursday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m.

DOMINICAN NUNS VOCATION RETREAT: The cloistered Dominican nuns in Marbury, Alabama invite young women age 16-26 to draw closer to Jesus and Mary and learn more about their hidden vocation at the heart of the Order of Preachers. The retreat will be from June 9th to June 11th. Visit: MarburyDominicanNuns.org/Vocation-Retreat-June23

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$10,433 and \$1130 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 6-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, May 13: 4:00 p.m. † Sheila Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, May 14: 7:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by Judy & Danny Rohling)
Mon, May 15: *8:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by Judy & Danny Rohling)
Tues, May 16: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the David & Ryan Hill Family (by John & Lucrecia Hall)
Wed, May 17: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Wes & Brenna Hill Family (by John & Lucrecia Hall)
Thur, May 18: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Antonio & Carolina Valencia Family (by John & Lucrecia Hall)
Fri, May 19: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Andrew & Hallie Hill Family (by John & Lucrecia Hall)
Sat, May 20: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for MaryJo Fernandes (by the Hahn Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for the Wes & Brenna Hill Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, May 21: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Valencia Family (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the David & Ryan Hill Family (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Mareline Sampedro, Jeff Brown, Debbie Trussell, 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, Linda Cooper, 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. Ascension Sunday	Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Mt 28:16-20
7:30 a.m. Sunday After the Ascension	1Pet 4:7-11, Jn 15:26-16:4
9:00 a.m. Ascension Sunday	Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Mt 28:16-20
10:45 a.m. Sunday After the Ascension	1Pet 4:7-11, Jn 15:26-16:4

Playing God: What could Go Wrong?

Instead of accepting the reality that God made us male and female, instead of recognizing long-settled scientific aspects of human anatomy, some people today seem to think that human gender is malleable, and if not malleable, subject to our own designs. What this essentially means is that people are playing god with their own lives, and more alarmingly, playing god with the lives of others. This is hardly new. Eve, and probably Adam too, wanted to be like God. Cain exercised power over life and death. Mankind aspired to be like gods when they tried to ascend into heaven by the Tower of Babel. Instead of accepting that we are made in God's own image, most fully expressed as male and female, we often choose to create our own gods. This has been a problem with mankind from early times and it continues today. Yes, we might not fashion a statue or image and literally worship the work of our own hands, but we will happily worship and serve the things we value. Fame, money, power, possessions, pleasure, and all of the other things we are prone to crave can effectively replace God.

We don't always see the potential harm in playing God. In fact, we can tell ourselves that playing God is necessary, beneficial, or an imperative. The nazis played God with the Jews, not only exploiting them as slave labor and exterminating them, but using them as test subjects in some of the most horrific experiments for the sake of advancing scientific knowledge. Imperial Japan did much the same with the Chinese and prisoners of war. We can tell ourselves that modern society would never do such crimes against humanity, but we would be fooling ourselves. While we might not subject humans to unspeakable horrors in the name of science, we can certainly play God in other ways.

We have selectively bred plants and animals for centuries. This could easily be seen as part of subduing the earth, as is part of our God-given commission to "*Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth*"(Gen 1:28). Such legitimate dominion surely has limits that ought not be transgressed. For example, was the gain of function research, which more than likely created the virus that has plagued the whole world for the last three years, truly necessary? Why? So that we can defend ourselves against future pandemics? Really? That did not seem to go so well, did it? Not having learned from this, not even admitting responsibility, it has been reported that the federal government has recently resumed funding for continued bat virus gain of function research. This is hardly breeding better tomatoes or cows that produce more milk. This is hardly cross-breeding different varieties of wheat to make a heartier, more drought-resistant strain. Creating new viruses that are highly infectious to humans is a good thing? A responsible thing? A wise thing?

Likewise, we are witnessing the birth of artificial intelligence. Of all creatures, only the angels and mankind have been endowed with intelligence. Our intelligence is balanced by wisdom, conscience, and an innate moral compass. We are also, whether we know or like it or not, answerable to a Higher Power. Will the artificial intelligence we create have wisdom? A conscience? A moral compass? Whose moral compass? Will it be answerable to its human creators as we are answerable to God? What values will self-aware artificial intelligence manifest? Will human life be sacred to artificial intelligence or will it see mankind as a nuisance, regard us as a means to an end, or enslave us for its own purposes? If, in our arrogance, we create artificial intelligence thinking that we know what we are doing, can we expect what we create to be humble? Various science fiction writers have warned us of the perils of artificial intelligence for the last seventy years. Art warns science and rightly so.

We have an arrogance that is often our undoing. We do not see the full consequences of our actions and can hardly imagine the future impact of all that we do. Japan has contracepted and aborted itself to the point that its population is nearing collapse. The same can be said of Italy, Spain, Portugal, and a host of other countries. We are not far behind. Contraception and abortion were supposed to improve lives, not put whole countries, regions, and perhaps the whole human race in jeopardy. Are we sowing the wind so as to reap the whirlwind?

- Fr Booth