

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 8th/July 9th 2023: Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost (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 a.m., 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: For Marian and Saverio Miranda, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from July 9th to July 15th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Kathryn Mabee from July 16th until July 22nd.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, July 15th. 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.

LOW MASS AT 10:45: Next Sunday, July 16th the 10:45 a.m. Mass will be a Low Mass due to a lack of sufficient altar servers.

FATHER JAMES E. COYLE MEMORIAL MASS: Let us remember a holy priest killed in the line of duty. A memorial Mass will be offered on Friday, August 11th at 10:00 a.m. at St Paul’s. The celebrant of the Mass will be Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, archbishop of Mobile who will be joined by Bishop Raica and priests from the diocese. The Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Father Coyle.

THEOLOGY ON TAP: Theology on Tap will meet Tuesday, July 11th at Vecchia Pizzeria (610 Preserve Pkwy Suite 100, Hoover, AL 35226). The event starts at 6:30 and the talk starts at 7:00 p.m. This month we are featuring four eastern priests as our panel of speakers. They will be sharing the Eastern Expression of the Faith followed by questions from the audience. Our speakers are Father Mitch Pacwa, Father Peter Zogbi, Father Justin and Father Gregory Edwards.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: 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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week is TBD due to Fr Booth's vacation.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 7-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, July 8: 4:00 p.m. † Fr John Horgan (by the Lang Family)
Sun, July 9: 7:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by the Lang Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Beverly Reid (by the Lang Family)
Mon, July 10: *8:30 a.m. † Nathaniel Starkel (by the Lang Family)
Tues, July 11: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Abbey McGinn (by the Lang Family)
Wed, July 12: *8:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
Thur, July 13: *8:30 a.m. Private Intention
Fri, July 14: *8:30 a.m. † Rob Trussell (by the Rumore Family)
Sat, July 15: 9:15 a.m. † Edie Irwin (by the Rumore Family)
4:00 p.m. Private Intention
Sun, July 16: 7:30 a.m. † Henrietta Rataj (by Ed & Susan Fay)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Angela Kerper (by the Rumore Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Susan Corsini, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Madeline Sampedro, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, 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, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Beverly Scroggins, 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. 15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Mt 13:1-23
7:30 a.m. 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21
9:00 a.m. 15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Mt 13:1-23
10:45 a.m. 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21

Can We be Free from Fear?

There is no question that fear greatly influences our lives. We might imagine that a fear-free life would be better than being forced to occasionally or chronically deal with being afraid of this or that. Maybe. But how would fearlessness be established in this world? Two ways come to mind. First, we might find greater tranquility if we somehow become more powerful. Power suggests control and control can bring about the ability to manage or to eliminate the sources of fear. Afraid of clowns (an oddly common fear)? Eliminate clowns from your life. Perhaps clown-free zones could be established, maybe media could be filtered such that all images of clowns would disappear from pictures, videos, movies, and programs, maybe special goggles could be worn to block out any visual instances of clowns from our environment, and so on. Or, taken to the extreme, all clowns could be exterminated from existence. Afraid of death, our most basic fear? Eliminate all potential causes of death: disease, accidents, aging, and so on. Radically redefining human life, perhaps by transferring our psyche to a new body as our old body wears out or by placing our minds into some form of technology invulnerable to suffering and disease, might eliminate death thereby extinguishing all fear of death. That would work until the possibility of obtaining a new body is threatened or until someone simply unplugs the device where your mind lives. So, in dealing with coulrophobia (fear of clowns) or fear of death (thanatophobia) by eliminating the sources or triggers of these fears requires powers well beyond what we possess today, massive power that most certainly poses its own moral danger and spawns consequent fears. But even if we had the power to eliminate these fears, the very concept of clowns or death would still remain a real source of fear.

The second way we might eliminate fear is through profound ignorance. If clowns had never existed in the first place, if the concept of clownness was utterly and universally unknown, coulrophobia would not be possible. How could anyone be afraid of nuclear war before the discovery of the atom and its properties? Before the sudden extinction of the dinosaurs was explained by the impact of an asteroid or comet, we had no fear of the sudden end of all or almost all life on the planet. No doubt there are many things currently unknown to us that we ought to fear, and because of this, we would still have the fear of the unknown.

But one thing we might ask is whether or not we are born with innate fears. The answer is maybe. Supposedly, infants are afraid of hunger, but that might just mean that they are hungry. The other potential innate fear is the fear of heights. Babies have shown an aversion to crawling over the edge of a table, but that fear can be overcome by the encouragement of their mother, suggesting that this fear is fairly weak. But if being fear-free or nearly so means living with the same mental development as an infant, how much life would we forfeit, how could this possibly be worth it?

In any case, it would seem that our fears are all or almost all acquired. Some are learned through experience, some our taught to us, and some are imposed upon us. Some of these acquired fears are beneficial so long as they serve to preserve us from pain, suffering, and death. Fear is a positive reaction to the extent that it does not paralyze us from actually living. A fear of snakes is healthy and rational given the number of species that are venomous, but that fear generally does not short circuit our lives. We are taught that bears, snakes, and alligators are dangerous: the value of learning such dangers through personal experience would prove to be short lived. We learn to fear pain through personal experience, either by being in pain or observing someone else undergoing suffering. We are also subject to irrational fears that have no basis in reality. Fear of the number 13, or in some parts of the world the number 17, can't possibly serve to preserve us from pain, suffering, and death.

The fear of death is our most primal fear, but as Christians who acknowledge eternal life, death itself should not be our most basic fear. If we fear pain and suffering here on earth, the eternal pain and suffering of hell ought to replace the fear of death. Indeed, the fear of hell should be taken more seriously than the fear of bears, snakes, clowns, numbers, heights, water, flying, and so forth. Truly there is but one fear that must transcend the fear of hell.

- Fr Booth