

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 16th/March 17th 2024: Fifth Sunday of Lent (English)
First Passion Sunday (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 in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Bessie K. Lawrence, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 17th to March 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Maxine Olson from March 24th until March 30th.

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, March 29th will be at 2:30 p.m.).

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

ST JOSEPH: The Feast of St Joseph is on Tuesday, March 19th. There will be an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. (instead of the normal Latin daily Mass) and a High Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY: Due to time constraints, for the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Palm Sunday the abbreviated Gospel will be used, the palms will be previously blessed, and there will be no procession. Also, the 10:45 will be a Low Mass.

CONFIRMATION: We are planning on having Confirmation later this year at a date that is to be determined. The bishop has offered to confirm using the new rite in Latin followed by a High Latin Mass where he will sit in choir.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2023 have been mailed. If you contributed \$250 or more you should receive your statement soon.

MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

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, Joshua Callahan, Michael Masny, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, and Dominic Rumore.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$8826 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$110. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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, Mar 16:	9:15 a.m.	Special Intention for Allison Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Private Intention
Sun, Mar 17:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Eddie Mathews (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for the Staub Family (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Mar 18:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Chris Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
Tues, Mar 19:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Benedict Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
	6:30 p.m.	† Fr Peter MacCarthy (by Trish Beaumont)
Wed, Mar 20:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Judy & Danny Rohling (by the Rumore Family)
Thur, Mar 21:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Jimmy Dean (by the Rumore Family)
Fri, Mar 22:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Lucrecia Hall (by the Rumore Family)
Sat, Mar 23:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Mary Claire Clemens (by the Rumore Family)
Sun, Mar 24:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Shannon Sykes (by the Rumore Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Miriam Tate (by the Rumore Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Deacon Walter Henderson, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahan, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, 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, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mk 14:1-15:47
7:30 a.m. Palm Sunday	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 27:45-52
9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mk 14:1-15:47
10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 26:36-27:60

We Need to Remember that God is the Author of Life, Not Us

Given that a certain virus was almost certainly manmade, essentially designed under the guise of studying possible emerging viruses, mankind really should take scientific ethics quite seriously. After all, millions of people died as a result and many more will have their lives shortened in ways that have yet to be fully understood and by amounts not yet quantified. We will suffer the effects of this virus and probably the associated medical interventions for decades. For example, long term side effects from the naturally occurring 1918 Spanish Flu – sleeping sickness, Parkinson’s, and catatonia – vexed some people into the 1950s. Given the mortality and ongoing suffering we are experiencing, the excuse of developing such novel viruses for the sake of study and for the sake of dealing with a future pandemic hardly justify the obvious risks. Why not focus on finding treatments for viral and bacterial diseases mankind already suffers from instead of creating new and deadly pathogens?

This is hardly the first time that science and technology have been used in morally dubious ways. For example, a good many of the scientists associated with the Manhattan Project, the codename for the efforts to develop and manufacture the first nuclear weapons, came to regret what they had done. Some were initially motivated by patriotism while others by a sense of self-preservation, especially the Jewish scientists who reckoned that it was better for the Americans and the British to have the bomb before the Germans were able to obtain weapons of such devastating power. Since then, tens of thousands of nuclear weapons have been made that have largely remained under the control of fairly sane governments that have no real appetite to use them, generally seeing them as weapons of last resort. That reality is changing such that regimes with genocidal aspirations will soon possess atomic weapons, regimes that have clearly stated their desire to use them. Up until now, nuclear weapons have been understood to be weapons of deterrence, not weapons of genocide.

In any case, literature and cinema have given us ample warning about the dangers of nuclear weapons, but also the peril of monkeying around with life itself. ‘Frankenstein’ comes to mind but is not alone among any number of fictional manmade monsters. And we have the fictional novel ‘The Boys from Brazil’ where 94 clones of Adolf Hitler were unleashed upon the world by a nazi scientist who hoped that at least one of them would rekindle the Third Reich. Similarly, the Woody Allen futuristic comedy ‘Sleeper’ features a dictator being cloned to keep the regime alive. Optimized and specialized clones, called replicants, are created in ‘Blade Runner’ to do mankind’s dirty work such as going to war and other life threatening or unpleasant tasks. In the ‘Jurassic Park’ movies scientists inadvertently unleash long-dead dinosaurs on the world in what was intended to be a zoo of fascinating extinct creatures cloned from preserved DNA. The list goes on.

We might assure ourselves that these are all works of fiction. Yes they are, but we are on the cusp of taking some of these storylines from fiction into fact. Recently, scientists have developed the technology to create a human embryo from the skin cells of two men. Or it could be an embryo created from two women, a man and a woman, or a single man. Theoretically, a female could be created from the DNA of two men. Yikes.

So it possible that a dictator might create a series of clones to succeed him when he dies. Or he might clone himself to create offspring for the purpose of obtaining organs to be transplanted, prolonging the dictator’s life. Indeed, imagine how the nazis might have used such technology?

Many moral questions need to be thought through. Soon. Do embryos have human rights? Not at the moment. So will a clone created in a lab have human rights? Will corporations or governments seek to exploit such technology to create ‘better humans’ or ‘less human humans’ for the sake of exploiting them? Will they see the many existing but abandoned frozen embryos from in-vitro fertilization as guinea pigs? Will labs be tempted to sell excess frozen embryos to the highest bidder, or might a government assert eminent domain over the embryos? No sense in being naive here given that our culture has no qualms about turning girls into boys and boys into girls.

- Fr Booth