

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 6th / April 7th 2024: Divine Mercy Sunday



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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 Fr Mark Beard, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 7th to April 13th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of George Lally, Sr. from April 14th until April 20th.

REST IN PEACE: Gail McMahan, our former organist, passed away recently. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

ANNUNCIATION MASS: A Latin High Mass for the Annunciation will be offered at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8th. This feast was transferred to April 8th since its usual day landed in Holy Week. The Annunciation is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

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.

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 \$14,599 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$850. 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, Apr 6: 8:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
4:00 p.m. † Penny Cardenas (by the Bryant Family)
- Sun, Apr 7: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ronnie & Mema Mathews (by the Juneau Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Sarah Catherine Rumore (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
- Mon, Apr 8: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Charlie & Allison Rumore (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Fr Miguel Marie, MFVA (by the Juneau Family)
- Tues, Apr 9: *8:30 a.m. † Eric McClinton (by Helen Brandley)
- Wed, Apr 10: *8:30 a.m. † Lula B. Allison (by Helen Brandley)
- Thur, Apr 11: *8:30 a.m. † Johnny L. Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
- Fri, Apr 12: *8:30 a.m. † Mamie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
- Sat, Apr 13: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Zachary Archer (by the Donellan Family)
- Sun, Apr 14: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for John-Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Nick and Angie Donellan (by the Donellan 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, 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

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| 8:00 p.m. Third Sunday of Easter | Acts 3:13-15,17-19, 1Jn 2:1-5, Lk 24:35-48 |
| 7:30 a.m. Second Sunday after Easter | 1Pet 2:21-25, Jn 10:11-16 |
| 9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Easter | Acts 3:13-15,17-19, 1Jn 2:1-5, Lk 24:35-48 |
| 10:45 a.m. Second Sunday after Easter | 1Pet 2:21-25, Jn 10:11-16 |

Divine Mercy

Divine mercy is hardly a new thing. Some might think that it is a recent development in our understanding of God, but that is hardly the case. Yes, thanks to St John Paul II and St Faustina we see a greater understanding and appreciation of His mercy toward mankind, but God was most certainly merciful in times past. Because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, we might resent that we toil for what we need, that women suffer so profoundly in childbirth, and that we suffer disparities in our relationships. We might convince ourselves that it is not fair that we have to suffer these effects of Adam and Eve's disobedience, especially the fact that their sin brought death to us all.

Then again, we have to remind ourselves that God could have simply chosen to end the lives of Adam and Eve right then and there. That we exist at all because Adam and Eve were spared, that they were allowed to live long enough to propagate humanity into the future, is probably the most underappreciated aspect of divine mercy. Likewise, we see divine mercy in action with regard to the murder of Abel by Cain. An eye-for-an-eye application of justice would have brought the execution of Cain, but our merciful Lord chose to protect his life, saying "*If anyone kills Cain, Cain shall be avenged seven times*" (Gen 4:15). It is not as if Cain went unpunished since he was banished from living off the land and thus having to live a nomadic life.

God is not lax when it comes to sin as the whole earth found out with the Great Flood as did the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah. Because of God's mercy, Noah along with his wife, three sons, and three daughters-in-law were spared from the flood while Lot and his two daughters were saved from the fire and brimstone. Then again, His mercy can be spurned and rejected as Lot's wife found out the hard way. Jesus reminds us of this when He challenges His disciples to remain vigilant until the end, not turning back to sinful ways but remaining steadfast. To punctuate this challenge to remain faithful Jesus merely has to say "*Remember Lot's wife*" (Lk 17:32).

Sadly, many Christians today do not take their sins seriously because they presume upon God's mercy. Yes, God is infinitely merciful and we have unprecedented access to His mercy thanks to Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. However, while divine mercy is a grace, an unmerited gift, that does not mean this gift of His mercy requires nothing on our part. Out of His mercy the people of Israel were liberated from Egypt, but most of them failed to reach the Promised Land. God was faithful to the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but the people were unfaithful in return. If it was not for Moses' intercession and God's mercy, God could have wiped out the Chosen People for their lack of faith and their disobedience. Instead, the people liberated from slavery were allowed to live but were not permitted to enter the Promised Land. Of that original generation of adults set free from slavery, only Caleb and Joshua were faithful and only they crossed the Jordan River along with the next generation of the Israelites. Not even Moses entered the Promised Land.

The people of Israel entered into a covenant with God but were not faithful to that covenant. Through Jesus Christ we have an even better covenant with better promises, but rejecting those better promises certainly invites greater consequences. "*Anyone who rejects the law of Moses is put to death without pity on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Do you not think that a much worse punishment is due the one who has contempt for the Son of God, considers unclean the covenant-blood by which He was consecrated, and insults the Spirit of grace? It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*" (Heb 10:28,29,31).

Falling short of what we are called to be – saints – makes falling into the hands of God a fearful thing indeed. Then again, He would much rather we do what we ought and accept the graces that lead to salvation. After all, "*The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but He is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*" (2Pet 3:9). His patience is certainly an aspect of His mercy. Nevertheless, there are limits to His patience as the antediluvian people and the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah found out the hard way.

- Fr Booth