

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 8th / March 9th 2025: First 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 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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: Benjamin & Lydia Blaylock, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from March 9th to March 15th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bessie K. Lawrence from March 16th until March 22nd.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

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 18th it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

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

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2025: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS for 2024 have been mailed out. If you have not received your statement, let Fr Booth know.

FIRST COMMUNION: We have scheduled our First Communion on March 30th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be offered on Sunday, March 16th after the 10:45 Mass, Sunday, March 23rd after the 10:45 Mass, and after First Communion Rehearsal. Rehearsal for First Communion will be on Saturday, March 29th at 9:00 a.m.

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, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop's Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$28,885 and thus exceeding our goal.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$10,912 and \$9,080 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about an 8-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Mar 8: 4:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Mar 9: 7:30 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. † Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Rick Phillips (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Mon, Mar 10 *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Charlie Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
Tues, Mar 11: *8:30 a.m. † Joseph J. Plaia (by Julie Bryant)
Wed, Mar 12: *8:30 a.m. † Joseph J. Plaia (by Mary Jane Kelly)
Thur, Mar 13: *8:30 a.m. † Normand Gagnon (by La Verne Gibson)
Fri, Mar 14: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Joseph & Maddie Jimenez (by John Anthony & Mary Jimenez)
Sat, Mar 15: 9:15 a.m. Special intention for the Blount Family (by the Jimenez Family)
4:00 p.m. † Rick Phillips (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Mar 16: 7:30 a.m. † Yi Sun Hui (by the Duvall Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Abby & Andrew Rumore (by the DiPiazza Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Grace Hill, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Phillip McCarty, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, 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. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 15:5-12,17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Lk 9:28-36
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 15:5-12,17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Lk 9:28-36
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

Overcoming Temptation

When Jesus was baptized, John the Baptist objected that He did not need to be baptized. John was right. Jesus was already a Son of the Father, He was already the one true Son of the Father, and He already had the Holy Spirit. He was also totally and eternally sinless. Despite all of this, the very first thing Jesus did after His baptism was to go off to the desert to fast and pray. Of course, He was tempted by satan. The Gospels speak of only one episode with three specific temptations, but we are also told that Jesus was subject to even more than these three, and it is likely that there were multiple attempts to tempt Jesus. The Gospel of Luke tells us that “*the devil had finished every temptation*” (Lk 4:13) and St Paul also tells us that Jesus was tempted “*in every way, yet without sin*” (Heb 4:15).

So, we could say that satan’s temptation of Jesus was comprehensive. We can also say that Jesus would not sin because of His divinity even though He was subject to temptation in His humanity. Some might see this as cheating, that Jesus really couldn’t fall under temptation like we do. That is not a fair criticism of Jesus overcoming satan’s temptation. Why? Jesus is fully human and never used His divinity in a self-serving manner. More importantly for us, Jesus did several things that help conquer temptation. He fasted, He sought solitude, He embraced silence, He prayed, and He had the Holy Spirit. This is also our formula to resist temptation. While Jesus did not absolutely need fasting, silence, solitude, prayer, and the Holy Spirit to stand up to satan, that hardly means we will stand up to temptation without the help of all of these things.

In fasting, we seek to gain self-mastery. Without self-mastery, we are far more helpless than our ego usually permits us to admit. If I cannot say no to a piece of chocolate cake, how can I say no to even more profound temptations? If I cannot say no to something legitimate, do I really think I will be successful in saying no to temptation to sin?

Silence and solitude, so difficult to achieve in today’s world, take us away from so many distractions. We gain self-awareness through silence. Through silence, our mind begins to turn inward to our own thoughts as opposed to simply reacting to our environment. In solitude, we are liberated from our natural desire to be social. In the presence of others, we want to communicate and they want to communicate with us. Solitude focuses our communication especially our ability to listen. Solitude can also focus our desire to communicate into prayer. Given another human in our midst, it is easier to communicate with them than with God. And we will almost always get an answer from the human being. When praying, however, we know that God hears it all, but we might not hear the answer in the absence of silence and solitude. Indeed, learning to pray in solitude makes it easier not only to listen, but also to pray under temptation.

The fifth thing to help us under temptation is the most powerful one: the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. People find that when they are in a state of grace they can resist temptation with greater ease and success. But when we fall from grace, we will be more prone to fall again and again.

This is seen in the alcoholic or other addict. Once he has one drink, a second is much more likely to follow. A second drink more easily leads to a third, and so on. Once a man sees something impure, he is much more likely to seek more images showing greater degrees of impurity. Generally, the rationalization usually goes something like this: ‘Now that I have already seen this or done that – what ever this or that might be – I might as well go further.’ Or, ‘Now that I have fallen, what’s the harm of doing even more.’ Falling from grace often leads to a greater fall or even a prolonged fall.

So, Jesus in doing what He did – getting baptized and retreating to the desert to be tempted, two things He did not need to do – has given us an example of how to endure temptation. Fasting, silence, solitude, prayer, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. During this season of Lent, what better time do we have to embrace Jesus’ formula? What better opportunity do we have to become more immune to temptation? It would be foolish on our part to remain vulnerable to temptation. We might not be tempted now, but why wait to prepare for the inevitable?

- Fr Booth