

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 2nd / March 3rd 2024: Third 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. 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 Robert Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 3rd until March 9th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Benjamin & Lydia Blaylock from March 10th until March 16th.

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.).

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

FIRST COMMUNION: We will have our First Communion on March 10th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Rehearsal will be on March 9th at 10:30 a.m. First confessions will be available following the 10:45 Mass on Sunday February 25th, March 3rd, and following the rehearsal on March 9th.

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 \$8564 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$1060. 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 2: 8:30 a.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Mar 3: 7:30 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Mon, Mar 4: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ana Lu Hemphill (by the Hahn Family)

Tues, Mar 5: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jessica Helen Sieber (by the Hahn Family)

Wed, Mar 6: *8:30 a.m. † William Darrow (by the Hahn Family)

Thur, Mar 7: *8:30 a.m. † Jerry Bryant (by the Bryant Family)

Fri, Mar 8: *8:30 a.m. † Bob Bryant (by the Bryant Family)

Sat, Mar 9: 4:00 p.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)

Sun, Mar 10: 7:30 a.m. † Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Aric and Anna Pohorelsky (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Diane Norton, William Munch, 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. Fourth Sunday of Lent	2Chr 36:14-16,19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21
7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	2Chr 36:14-16,19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15

The Alabama IVF Controversy

Alabama has become the center of controversy regarding in-vitro fertilization (IVF). As usual, the media has twisted and distorted what truly happened. What people are hearing from the various media platforms is that Alabama has either banned IVF or passed a law declaring that human embryos are legally human beings. Of course, politicians are either scrambling to address the perceived issues or doing their level best to politicize this IVF controversy. It falls into the standard tropes of the so-called 'war on women' or the histrionics equating the issue with the dystopian book/movie 'The Handmaid's Tale.' Given that the 'Handmaid's Tale' is about forcing women into having babies, one must wonder how allegedly banning IVF somehow figures into the plot line of forcing women to have babies when supposedly outlawing IVF would do just the opposite.

So what really happened? In 2021 three couples sued a Mobile fertility clinic for having inadvertently destroyed their frozen embryos. The question faced by the Alabama Supreme Court was not whether or not the fertility clinic committed a crime, but to what degree they were responsible for punitive civil damages. In other words, was the destruction of these frozen embryos just a matter of property damage or is the fertility clinic liable for compensating these couples for wrongful death of the embryos. What the Supreme Court of Alabama ruled was that these embryos are to be regarded just like a baby in the womb for the sake of civil damages. It is not a huge logical or legal leap to conclude that a human life in-vitro (literally 'in glass') is indistinguishable from a human life in-utero ('in the uterus'). The Court thus ruled that 'the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act applies to all unborn children, regardless of their location.' The 1975 Wrongful Death of a Minor Act allows parents to seek punitive civil damages for the death of a minor child, including a pre-born baby. So, in the eyes of the Court, an unborn baby that dies because of trauma inflicted in an automobile accident is indistinguishable from an embryo killed through the negligence of a fertility clinic.

This ruling, however, does not change the law of Alabama nor does it outlaw IVF. The press picked up on the fact that several IVF clinics immediately ceased operations as proof of the procedure being outlawed when in reality the various clinics probably stopped doing procedures until they could figure out their potential exposure to financial risk. No doubt the fertility clinics carry insurance, but does that insurance cover potential wrongful death verdicts?

In any case, this is an opportunity to review the Church's teaching on matters of human life. Pope St Paul VI predicted in *Humanae Vitae* (1968) that the modern world's contraceptive mentality would result in four things: an increase in both sexual immorality and marital infidelity; the diminishment of the dignity of women even to the point of true objectification; governments resorting to draconian means to limit human fertility through contraception, sterilization, and abortion; and the use of technology to exert dominion over the human body and the creation of human life. Paul VI was widely mocked in 1968, but it would seem that he was totally correct on all counts.

It is that fourth prediction, that technology would be used to seek dominion over the creation of human life, that is the moral principal at stake when it comes to IVF and other fertility treatments. The Church affirms that married couples have a right to children, but like all rights, there are limitations to the exercise of that right. The right to conceive and bear children is limited to the natural, human, God-given means for procreation: technology is not a substitute to what God has ordained for human procreation. Thus, a child must be conceived of both husband and wife without recourse to the biological participation of third parties, it must be the result of a natural marital act between both husband and wife, and the child must develop in his own mother's womb. The role of technology cannot morally substitute for any aspect of the procreative process, but it is allowed to assist that process. In the case of IVF, where the baby may or may not be the offspring of both husband and wife, where the child is conceived outside of his mother, where the child can be born of a woman other than the wife, etc., there is little doubt that IVF represents a huge moral issue. - Fr Booth