

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 14<sup>th</sup>/February 15<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
Quinquagesima (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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

**IN MEMORIAM:** For Joel Levenberg, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 15<sup>th</sup> to February 21<sup>st</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Howard von Hagel from February 22<sup>nd</sup> until February 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** February 18<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. We will have an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. and a Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

**MORNING WITH MARY:** All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at 9:15 a.m.

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

**FIRST COMMUNION:** We have scheduled our First Communion on March 15<sup>th</sup>, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be offered on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> after the 10:45 Mass, Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> after the 10:45 Mass, and after First Communion Rehearsal. Rehearsal for First Communion will be on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT WEEKEND:** The Office of Vocations is hosting a Priesthood Discernment Weekend from February 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> at Casa Maria Retreat Center. Father Kurt R. Young, Vice-Rector at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will lead this weekend of prayer, talks, and fellowship for men discerning a call to priesthood. Fr Wyman Vintson, Vicar for Vocations, will be present and available to answer questions about discernment, the application process, and seminary life. This weekend experience is for men ages 18-35. The event is free, but registration is required. Register for this event at: <https://bhmdiocese.org/discernment-weekend>

**PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS:** Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew

Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$10,408 and \$770 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is large backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. No exceptions. The Mass Intentions for this week date from May 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Sat, Feb 14: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Emalyn Staub (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)
- Sun, Feb 15: 7:30 a.m. † Grace Hill (by the Peter Gagnon Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. † Joel Levenberg (by Mary Jane Kelly)
- Mon, Feb 16: \*8:30 a.m. Special intention for Faustina Gabryel (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)
- Tues, Feb 17: \*8:30 a.m. † Jerry Bryant (by Bryant Family)
- Wed, Feb 18: 8:30 a.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by Bryant Family)  
6:30 p.m. Special intention for the Fieramosca Family (by Ted & Mary Frances Williams)
- Thur, Feb 19: \*8:30 a.m. Special intention for Sterling Tucker (by Mary Jimenez)
- Fri, Feb 20: \*8:30 a.m. † Maribeth Guerrero (by the DiPiazza Family)
- Sat, Feb 21: 9:10 a.m. Private Intention  
4:00 p.m. † Robert C. Bryant (by Bryant Family)
- Sun, Feb 22: 7:30 a.m. † Grace Hill (by the DiPiazza Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Ann Marie Hahn (by the Juneau Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially for Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, Fr Timothy Gahan, George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, 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, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Gen 2:7-9;3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Mt 4:1-11
- 7:30 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 2Cor 6:1-10, Mt 4:1-11
- 9:00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Gen 2:7-9;3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Mt 4:1-11
- 10:45 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 2Cor 6:1-10, Mt 4:1-11

## *A More Excellent Way*

After discussing the various charismatic gifts, special gifts of the Holy Spirit that were not given equally or to all, St Paul moves on in his First Letter to the Corinthians to downplay the reality of speaking in tongues or prophesying. Why? It would seem that the Christians of Corinth were placing inordinate emphasis and prestige on having charismatic gifts. In order to dispel any misconceptions that speaking in tongues or having the gift of healing made that individual better or more important than someone with no charismatic gifts, Paul has to point out that *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone”* (1Cor 12:4-6). Indeed, he goes on to say *“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way”* (1Cor 12:29-31). In other words, the one who heals or speaks in tongues is not better nor are those lacking these gifts inferior or destined for hell.

Continuing, he writes *“If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing”* (1Cor 13:1-3).

That more excellent way is love, surpassing all of the special gifts of the Holy Spirit such as being called to be an Apostle, a prophet, a teacher, and so forth. Absent love, those extraordinary spiritual gifts amount to nothing. Absent love, heaven is not assured even for those whose faith is so vast as to move mountains. Jesus makes this point as well: *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?’ Then I will declare to them solemnly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers”* (Mt 7:21-23). When we understand that *“no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit”* (1Cor 12:3) it becomes clear that Jesus says *“I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers”* to people whose faith was inspired by the Holy Spirit, people who would be accounted as His disciples. For St Paul, the prominent proponent of faith, to place love above faith ought to get the attention of every Christian.

Which brings us to the question of what is love? What is the love that is greater than faith? What is the love Jesus speaks of when He speaks of the two greatest commandments, namely love of God above all things and love of neighbors as ourselves? St Paul, again in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of First Corinthians gives something of a definition. In verses 4 through 7 he tells us what love is and what it is not. This is not a dictionary or a textbook definition, but one that is practical. This is not so much a comprehensive definition as it is illustrative. Specifically, St Paul teaches *“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

Notice that the love spoken of in the New Testament, either by Jesus, by Paul or by anyone else is not an emotion or a feeling in any way. Strictly speaking, it is a virtue. It is a chosen behavior that is often difficult to accomplish and often requires self-negation, self-sacrifice, and general selflessness. This love spoken of by Jesus, Paul, et. al. must rise above emotion, choosing to love when disappointment, anger, resentment, and even betrayal are experienced. That our love for God and neighbor is not fundamentally emotional is good to bear in mind this weekend when many celebrate the emotional aspect of love on Valentine’s day. This love of husband and wife is both emotional and virtuous, but the virtuous love of self-negation, self-sacrifice, and selflessness is always possible even when emotional love falters. -Fr Booth