

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 22nd/July 23rd 2017: Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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Website: www.myblessedsacrament.org**

Pastor
Rev. Jim W. Booth

Religious Education
Ann Noblitt

SACRAMENTS and LITURGY

English Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

English Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Latin Sunday Mass: 10:45 a.m.

Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m.

First Saturday Latin Mass: 8:30 a.m. with confessions beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass: As Announced

Confessions: Thirty minutes before Saturday and Sunday Masses and by request

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.

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 at the Religious Goods Counter located in the vestibule of the front entrance.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: If you have requested contribution envelopes, they are in the front vestibule on the shelf across from the television.

IN MEMORIAM: In memory of Beverly Grisham, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from July 23rd until July 29th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Kathryn Mabee from July 30th until August 5th.

FATHER JAMES E. COYLE MEMORIAL MASS: Let us remember a holy priest killed in the line of duty. A memorial Mass will be offered on Friday, August 11th at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of St Paul. Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Fr Coyle.

HOMESCHOOL MASS: All Catholic Homeschoolers are invited to a Beginning of the Year Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Friday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m. Reception to follow; please bring a dish to share. Come join other Catholic homeschoolers to begin the school year in prayer and fellowship! For more information, please contact Susan Fay at staabhm@gmail.com

2017 HIGH MASS DATES: Tuesday, August 15th (Assumption of the BVM, Tuesday 6:00 p.m.); September 3rd (13th Sunday After Pentecost); October 29th (Christ the King); December 17th (Gaudete Sunday); Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Saint Rose Academy is seeking an elementary school teacher for the upcoming school year. Please send resumes to the principal, Sister Mary Elizabeth, O.P. Her email is smelizabeth@saintroseacademyop.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They are searching for a qualified candidate for the following position in Vandiver, AL: Radio Operator. For information on job requirements, go to www.ewtn.com. Please email cover letter, salary requirements & resume to humanresources@ewtn.com

ADDITIONAL LATIN MASSES: We are planning on adding one to two Latin Masses during the week starting this fall. These will be in addition to our English Masses and will not impact the 8:30 a.m. daily Mass at all. The time and day(s) for the additional Latin Masses is currently TBD.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please continue to pray for our men studying for the priesthood: Deacon Jonathan Howell, Connor Chandler, Chris Green, Justin Ward, Daniel Sessions, and Charles Deering. We also need to fervently pray for those who are discerning a call to the priesthood. We will need 12-15 men entering into the seminary by 2020 or we face the closing or consolidation of parishes.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4985 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$60. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Mass in Rectory Chapel)

- Mon, July 24: *8:30 a.m. † Charlie Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Tues, July 25: *8:30 a.m. † Louise Strick (by the Agnew Family)
Wed, July 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Nathan Gagnon (by Blessed Sacament)
Thur, July 27: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jeff Hahn (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore, Jr.)
Fri, July 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Terry Rumore, Sr. (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore, Jr.)
Sat, July 28: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Terry Rumore, Jr. (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore, Jr.)
Sun, July 30: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Rumore, Sr. (by the Pohorelsky Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Br. Gus Campion, OSB, Debbie Zeller, Fr Jim Macey, Peter Ransom, Victor Rumore, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Anthony Morris, Andrea Little, Darleen Schultz, Laura Minjares, Tommy Priola, Joseph Edwards, John Minjares Sr., Fr Joseph Underwood, George Dunham, Rebecca Rice, Michael Guthrie, Mike Hale, Kay Junk, Ed Thomas, Liz Pate, Fran Costanza, Spencer Hale Family, Christine Cover, Mary Thornton, Jeannette Johnson, Liz Bailey, Thatcher Kerzie, Bill McCann, Simmes Beville, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Anna Marie Madison, Kathleen Strawmeyer, Cindy Little, Rebecca Morris, Stan Trawick, David Henning, Bill Bankson, Bill Mara, Loretta Mara, Don Broseman, Lillie Rumore, Jennie Sciro, Stephanie Perry, Marcus Perry, Cynthia Daniel, and Jackie Modica.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

- 4:00 p.m. Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time 1Kgs 3:5, 7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Mt 13:44-52
9:00 a.m. Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time 1Kgs 3:5, 7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Mt 13:44-52
10:45 a.m. Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Rom 8:12-17, Lk 16:1-9

The Sacraments: Visible Rites

For my father it was not Christmas unless there was an orange in every stocking. It was unthinkable for there to be no orange. For a friend of mine, each year a family member was assigned to bring lasagna to the Thanksgiving meal. Every year that lasagna went untouched. The family still talks about the one time they went without the untouched lasagna, which happened to be the year that it was my friend's turn. Not knowing the significance of the uneaten lasagna, he thought it was silly to cook a dish that would go untouched. Ever since, out of fear of being shamed, no one in that family has dared not to bring lasagna when it was their turn, including my friend.

In a similar way, athletes do things in particular ways, things that really are not essential to the sport itself, in order to promote victory. Baseball players are particularly prone to this, thinking that winning hinges on wearing a lucky pair of socks or doing a particular ritual before or during a game. For example, hall of famer Wade Boggs would eat chicken before each game. Whitey Ashburn, another hall of famer, would sleep with his bat. Tennis player Serena Williams wears the same pair of socks day after day during a tournament.

The orange was a custom typical of my father's generation, the Thanksgiving lasagna was keeping a tradition alive that started many generations ago memorializing a long-dead relative who brought an inappropriate dish, and the routines that athletes perform no doubt give them some sense of confidence. We likewise are prone to relying on routines. We have morning routines, we have evening routines, we have shopping routines, we have office routines, and so on. We have routines, not because we are generally superstitious like those athletes, but because they serve our purposes.

In the same way, we have rituals because they are meant to serve us. Weddings are generally public events witnessing to the community that a new family has been formed, that the bride and groom are spoken for. The wedding ring is an ongoing sign of that reality. In some cultures, there are coming-of-age rituals, such as the Quinceañera celebrating a Hispanic girl's transition to womanhood, which can be as elaborate or more elaborate than a formal wedding ceremony. Indeed, mankind is predisposed to ritual behavior to signify that something special is happening, that this event is meaningful.

Thus, we should not be surprised that ritual is part of religion. For example, the Passover could be seen as an ordinary meal. But God mandated that the lamb be roasted instead of the ordinary Jewish custom of boiling, that the bread be unleavened, that bitter herbs be served, and that the men would be responsible exclusively for preparing the meal. This all signified that the Passover was special, that this meal had a meaning that transcended ordinary nutrition.

Given that God mandated the ritual aspects of the Passover meal, as well as many other aspects of Jewish worship, it should not surprise us that the sacraments are all celebrated in a ritual manner. Jesus mandated that the Eucharist be celebrated with unleavened bread and wine using His own words signifying that something special is happening. Jesus supplied the words to accompany baptism to signify that something was happening that does not happen in the shower, in the bathtub, in the swimming pool, or in the rain. Generally, sacraments are celebrated in a church to indicate that the ritual carries primarily a religious significance instead of a culturally or socially conditioned meaning.

Thus, it should not be surprising that the Catechism definition of a sacrament mentions rituals: 'The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament.' The rites are visible and the visible aspects are meant to point to what is happening invisibly. The rites are also audible and, with the exception of the sacrament of confession, they have a tactile aspect as well. The sense of smell comes into play in baptism and ordination and the sense of taste is a part of Communion but also in the old form of baptism. The sensible aspects of the sacramental rites are meant to serve us, to tell us that God is working in us through the Church and through the Church's duly authorized minister. They are not born of superstition as some have claimed, but speak to our human senses of what is beyond the senses to perceive.

- Fr Booth