

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 29th/July 30th 2017: Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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 Kathryn Mabee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from July 30th until August 5th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen Schauer from August 6th until August 12th.

REST IN PEACE: Mother Mary Gabriel Long, Superior of the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word, passed away on July 23rd and was laid to rest on July 29th. 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 FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday Mass on August 4th at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory. Mass will be followed with Adoration and Benediction.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on August 5th. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Band will follow Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: August 6th is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

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 \$4230 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$415. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Mon, July 31:	*8:30 a.m.	† Ralph Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Tues, August 1:	*8:30 a.m.	† Anna Soetaert (by the Agnew Family)
Wed, August 2:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Charles Anthony Rumore (by Blessed Sacament)
Thur, August 3:	*8:30 a.m.	† John Doran (by the Sampetro Family)
Fri, August 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Terry & Charlotte Rumore (by John Paul Hahn)
Sat, August 5:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Charles Rumore, Sr. (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore, Jr.)
	4:00 p.m.	† Stafford Juneau (by Allison & Charlie Rumore)
Sun, August 6:	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlotte & Terry Rumore, Jr. (by Allison & Charlie Rumore)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Paul Herrmann, 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 Bevill, 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. Feast of the Transfiguration	Dn 7:9-10,13-14, 2Pet 1:16-19, Mt 17:1-9
9:00 a.m. Feast of the Transfiguration	Dn 7:9-10,13-14, 2Pet 1:16-19, Mt 17:1-9
10:45 a.m. Feast of the Transfiguration	2Pet 1:16-19, Mt 17:1-9

The Sacraments: Visible Rites

Although most Christians observe religious rituals, such as the Sunday liturgy, baptism, weddings, and funerals, there is an element of anti-ritualism that has taken root in many denominations in the last 100 to 150 years. A coworker of mine described his church's approach to Sunday worship in the following way. They have a time for the proclamation of God's word, they have a time for a sermon, and they have a time for the Lord's Supper. These elements there are 'bookended' with various hymns. But what makes this particular church different is that the order of the three basic elements of their service is changed on a regular basis. For one period of time, the order might be the sermon, the Lord's Supper, and then the readings. Later, the order might be the Lord's Supper, the readings, and then the sermon. They rearrange the sanctuary from time to time even if it means moving the pulpit a few feet to the left and the altar a few feet to the right. When asked why, my coworker replied that this was all done to prevent the Sunday service from becoming a ritual.

Anti-ritual sentiments stem from two primary sources. The first source is the testimony of the Old Testament prophets. We hear the prophet Samuel say "*Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to the Lord's command? Obedience is better than sacrifice, to listen, better than the fat of rams*" (1Sam 15:22). In a similar way, Jesus quotes the prophet Hosea saying "*I desire mercy, not sacrifice*" (Mt 9:13, Hosea 6:6). Other prophets are far more blunt. The Lord speaks through Amos saying "*I hate, I despise your feasts, I take no pleasure in your solemnities. Even though you bring me your burnt offerings and grain offerings I will not accept them; your stall-fed communion offerings, I will not look upon them. Take away from me your noisy songs; the melodies of your harps, I will not listen to them. Rather let justice surge like waters, and righteousness like an unfailing stream*" (Amos 5:21-24). Likewise, God speaks through Jeremiah saying "*Of what use to me is incense that comes from Sheba, or sweet cane from far-off lands? Your burnt offerings find no favor with me, your sacrifices do not please me*" (Jer 6:20).

There are many other examples of what seem to be anti-ritual utterances from the prophets so much so that one might conclude that God despises rituals. This seems to be ratified when Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6. But who asked for the sacrifices and the ceremonies in the Temple to be performed in the first place? Who described what the priests and the Levites were to do in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple? It was the Lord. So, is God a hypocrite? Does He ask us to something and then berate us for actually doing it? Of course not.

The other primary source of anti-ritualism lies in an explicit or a latent anti-Catholicism. My coworker's church explicitly cites the ritualistic nature of Catholic liturgy as a cause for why the Church has supposedly gone astray. Others are more simplistic about it: if Catholics do something, it must therefore be wrong or at least suspect.

But is ritual really the problem? Was that the problem that the prophets were lamenting? Not really. The prophets were condemning empty ritual, and Jesus does the same. Jesus slams the scribes and Pharisees saying "*This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts*" (Mt 15:8). They, along with their ancient counterparts, were merely providing lip service to the Lord. When one merely goes through the motions of a ritual it is robbed of any merit.

Indeed, God wants all of who we are, He wants us heart, mind, and body. Rituals involve and speak to the mind and the body, but if the heart is not right with God, then the ritual is empty. God does not want us to merely go to Mass on Sunday and have the rest of our week to be lived as if Jesus had no part in our lives. He wants us to be just, merciful, and obedient. No ritual can substitute for justice, mercy, and obedience. Justice, mercy, and obedience are all elements of what it means to love, and since they were lacking in many of the scribes and Pharisees, it should not surprise us that they could not recognize Love incarnate.

- Fr Booth