

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*August 19th/August 20th 2017: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
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 Helen Von Hagel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 20th to August 26th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Glenn L. Varnell from August 27th until September 2nd.

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

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS: Birmingham's Catholic-chartered American Heritage Girls troops are registering girls aged 5–18 for this school year. American Heritage Girls like trying new things, making friends, serving others, and growing in their faith. Troop 1478 meets at Our Lady of Sorrows and Troop 1128 meets at Our Lady of the Valley. The troops include girls from multiple parishes who go to public school, private school, and homeschool. There will be a “Meet-and-Greet” informational gathering at the OLS Parish Hall on Wednesday, August 23rd where those interested can visit anytime from 3:30 till 6:00 p.m. For more information on the troop at OLS, contact Monica Duvall at moduvall@hotmail.com. For more information on the troop at OLV, contact Sara Lanza at slanza724@bellsouth.net.

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

SEMINARY VISIT: Young men aged 16-18 are invited to learn more about seminary life and enjoy a nice weekend in New Orleans. Fr Jerabek will lead a group from October 26th to 29th. Please email fatherjerabek@outlook.com to reserve your spot or call (205) 251-1279 x 103. The group will leave after school (i.e. late afternoon) on Thursday, October 26th and return in the evening of Sunday, October 29th. There is no cost. An “excuse letter” can be provided for those in public or private schools. Deadline for reservation is September 15th.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They are searching for qualified candidates for the following positions: Groundskeeper, Information Services Support Technician, Junior Network & Systems Administrator, Viewer Services Representative, and Radio Operator. Information on job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com. Please email cover letter, salary requirements & resume to humanresources@ewtn.com

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

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

ADDITIONAL LATIN MASSES: We are planning on adding 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 will probably be either 6:30 or 7:00 a.m. and we will begin these Masses in mid to late September.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$3827 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$65. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

- Mon, August 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Leo Agnew and Family (by the Agnew Family)
Tues, August 22: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Paul Agnew and Family (by the Agnew Family)
Wed, August 23: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Joe Runge (by the Runge Family)
Thur, August 24: *8:30 a.m. † Patricia Smith (by the Runge Family)
Fri, August 25: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for George Sampedro (by the Sampedro Family)
Sat, August 26: 4:00 p.m. † Nathalie Galle Brasher (by the Sciro Family)
Sun, August 27: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. † Salvatore & Mary Riccardi (by Maria Morin)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Ella Mae Hale, 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 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

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| 4:00 p.m. Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16:13-20 |
| 9:00 a.m. Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16:13-20 |
| 10:45 a.m. Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost | 2Cor 3:4-9, Lk 10:23-37 |

The Sacraments: They Make Grace Present

Returning to the Catechism definition of a sacrament – ‘The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.’ – we can see that we have covered most of what a sacrament is. We can now move on to what it means that the sacraments make graces present.

If a sacrament is celebrated properly, then the graces wrought from the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus infallibly flow forth. What it means to celebrate properly is a discussion that would be lengthy and contentious, but we could say that so long as a duly authorized minister with the right intentions uses the right words (i.e., the form) and uses the right material (i.e., the matter), then graces are made present. We have all been to Masses where we know that God was honored, glorified, and worshiped and we probably have been to Masses where things were more about the priest, more about politics, more about people’s feelings, or more generally about us than about God. In both cases, if the priest is authorized, has the right intentions, uses the correct form, and uses the correct matter, then the sacrament of the Eucharist and the graces that flow from It are made present. This is not to say that irreverent or narcissistic Masses are entirely the same as reverent Masses. Objectively in terms of making grace present they would be the same, but subjectively the reverent, God-focused Mass will be more fruitful and more spiritually edifying. An irreverent or us-centered Mass might even be sinful and sacrilegious especially for the priest, but it can still make the graces of the Eucharist present if the minister, his intentions, the form used, and the matter used are all correct.

Perhaps surprisingly, even the morality of the priest does not nullify the flow of graces from the sacraments if he does what he is supposed to do in the celebration of the sacrament. This is because the sacraments depend upon the worthiness of Jesus and not the worthiness of a fallible man. God has chosen to dispense His graces this way for the salvation of souls: while it depends upon the obedience of a mere man it absolutely requires the merits of Jesus to make grace available to the faithful. The priest is merely an instrument while Jesus is the source and the cause of the grace.

But if grace is infallibly made available or present through the proper and correct celebration of the sacraments, does that mean that we necessarily receive these graces as infallibly as they are made present? How the graces are received depends upon the receptivity and disposition of the recipient. An infant receiving baptism infallibly receives the graces of that sacrament. The baby cannot choose otherwise nor can the baby have a disposition that could block the flow of grace. An adult, however, could be baptized and not be properly disposed or receptive. He might be going through the motions for whatever reason or he may have a pretend-faith or he may not really renounce satan and all of his works and all of his pomps. Someone might receive the Eucharist in a state of mortal sin such that the graces of the sacrament are made present but not received at all because of the sin. A man might go to confession but deliberately withhold a serious sin such that he makes an invalid confession even though the priest grants him absolution: his deliberate withholding of a serious sin would block the grace of forgiveness. A bride or a groom might exchange vows not intending for a life-long union of fidelity with openness to life. Such a couple would be married in the eyes of man but the lack of receptivity and proper disposition would prevent the marriage from happening, it would prevent the grace of God from joining husband to wife in a one-flesh union. This is exactly what the annulment process strives to establish, whether or not both bride and groom were properly disposed and receptive for God to join them in a marital bond that no man may put asunder.

In other words, Jesus makes the graces of the sacraments available infallibly. It is we – the cleric or the recipients – who can stand in the way of the graces being received so as to bear spiritual fruit in our lives.

- Fr Booth