

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

September 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> 2017: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost



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**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.

**IN MEMORIAM:** In memory of Graham Morris, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 10<sup>th</sup> to September 16<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Graham Morris, Jr. from September 17<sup>th</sup> until September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**PRIEST RETREAT:** The priests of the diocese will be on retreat next week. There will be no morning Masses on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> through Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**KOC MEETING:** There will be the Knight's monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting in the Parish Hall with food at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

**ANNIVERSARY OF *SUMMORUM PONTIFICUM*:** *Summorum Pontificum*, an apostolic letter from Pope Benedict XVI, took effect on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This September 14<sup>th</sup> therefore marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this letter that made the Latin Mass more accessible and made possible the existence of our own Latin Mass community. We will have a Latin Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at Blessed Sacrament to celebrate this anniversary and a diocese-wide High Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at St Paul's Cathedral.

**ST GEORGE MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL:** The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Saint George Middle Eastern Food Festival will be held September on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 425 16th Avenue South. Drive through will be available until 7:00 p.m. Traditional Middle Eastern entrees and desserts will be served. For menu and event details, please see <http://saintgeorgeonline.org/food-festival/>

**POTLUCK DINNER DANCE:** We will have a covered dish dinner dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to dine and dance.

**PARISH WORKDAY:** We will have a Parish Workday on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from about 9:00 a.m. until about 3:00 p.m. There will be work both outside and inside the Church.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. Please email [fatherjerabek@outlook.com](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> and return in the evening of Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost. An "excuse letter" can be provided for those in public or private schools. Deadline for reservation is September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS:** Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Jonathan Howell, Connor Chandler, Chris Green, Justin Ward, Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Juan Perez, and Luis Reyes. 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.

**HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET:** The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at The Club. The special guest speaker will be Dr. Haywood Robinson, who was an abortionist prior to his conversion. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight, or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, call 205-447-8796 or go to [hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org](mailto:hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org)

**2017 HIGH MASS DATES:** October 29<sup>th</sup> (Christ the King); December 17<sup>th</sup> (Gaudete Sunday); Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.)

**ADDITIONAL LATIN MASSES:** We are adding two Latin Masses during the week in addition to our 8:30 a.m. daily English Masses. They will be on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. beginning on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection for last weekend was \$4747, the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$210, and \$1745 was collected for Hurricane Harvey Relief. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Mon, Sept 11: \*8:30 a.m. Spec. Int. for Deborah Zeller (by the Hahn Family)  
Tues, Sept 12: † Mrs. Tribble (by the Hahn Family) – *Mass at Retreat*  
Wed, Sept 13: Spec. Int. for Victor Rumore (by the Rumore Family) – *Mass at Retreat*  
Thur, Sept 14: For the Loved ones of the Beaumont Family (by the Beaumont Family) – *Mass at Retreat*  
6:00 p.m. Spec. Int. for Deborah Zeller (by the Rumore Family)  
Fri, Sept 15: \*8:30 a.m. Spec. Int. for Debra Brand Albright (by the Roncadori Family)  
Sat, Sept 16: 4:00 p.m. Spec. Int. for Debra Brand Albright (by the Roncadori Family)  
Sun, Sept 17: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*  
10:45 a.m. † Stafford Juneau (by the Juneau Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Jacob Baker, Ella Mae Hale, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Peter Ransom, Victor Rumore, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Anthony Morris, Andrea Little, Darleen Schultz, Joseph Edwards, 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, 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. Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Mt 18:21-35  
9:00 a.m. Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Mt 18:21-35  
10:45 a.m. Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16

## *The Sacraments: The Graces of Confirmation*

It has been said that confirmation is a sacrament in search of a theology. This is hardly the case at all. But it can truly seem that way. This is largely because pastors and religious educators have misappropriated this sacrament in one way or another. For example, many parishes see confirmation as a sort of rite of passage or a graduation. Not a few parishes delay confirmation to the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or even 12<sup>th</sup> grades in order to keep the young people in religious education classes or to populate youth groups that would otherwise be nearly empty. By delaying the sacrament to such an extent the idea that confirmation is the end of religious education or a graduation from the Church is certainly promoted.

That the Church has traditionally conferred confirmation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade says that this sacrament hardly constitutes a rite of passage into supposed Christian adulthood or the end of religious education. Until 1910, the order of sacraments for children was baptism, confession, confirmation, and then First Communion. In that year Pope Pius X moved First Communion before confirmation because he was concerned that too many parishes were delaying First Communion until 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Perhaps First Communion was being delayed by some pastors for the same reasons that confirmation is being delayed today.

In any case, the Church does not absolutely insist on a certain age for the reception of baptism, First Communion, or confirmation. The Eastern Rites do all three of these sacraments in infancy and the Western or Roman Rite chooses to defer First Communion and confirmation until the age of reason but allows for their reception in infancy in danger of death. Confirmation is generally delayed because the Roman Rite wants to emphasize the role of the bishop in these three sacraments: originally the bishop would confer all three sacraments at the Easter Vigil to infant and adult alike. Given the size of most dioceses, having the bishop perform all of the baptisms, confirmations, and First Communions at the Easter Vigil or even on multiple occasions is impractical.

Whether it is done in infancy or after the age of reason, confirmation can generally be seen as strengthening and completing the graces of baptism. In baptism we become sons and daughters of God. In confirmation this relationship is deepened and strengthened. Just as a child grows from simply being needy with regard to their mothers and fathers and later comes to appreciate them, to relate with them, and to honor them, confirmation strengthens the recipient to enter a more mature relationship with God. As baptism makes us coheirs with Jesus, confirmation deepens our relationship with Jesus making us soldiers for Christ and able to suffer for Him and with Him, to share in the rejection and ridicule He suffered, and to carry our crosses with Him. In the old ritual for confirmation, the bishop would lightly slap the confirmed to remind them of this reality of the Gospel.

Just as baptism makes us tabernacles of the Holy Spirit, confirmation deepens that reality too. In confirmation, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord – so that we are not just passive vessels of the Holy Spirit but work with the Holy Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to work in us. Growth in the gifts of the Holy Spirit allows us to bear more fully the fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, longanimity, mildness, faith, modesty, continency, and chastity.

Lastly, just as baptism makes us members of the body of Christ, the Church, confirmation strengthens our relationship to the Church. By our confirmation, we are called to join in the mission of the Church, becoming evangelists and defenders of the faith. It never has been the thinking of the Church that the laity should be passive members regarding the Church's mission with evangelization and defense of the faith left to religious and clergy. The laity can bring, in their own way and according to their own circumstances, the Gospel to aspects of our society that would be impossible for priests, such as the immediate family, the extended family, the neighborhood, the workplace and so on. Confirmation is meant to strengthen and widen the spread of the Gospel.

- Fr Booth