

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

September 16th/17th 2017: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Fifteenth 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.

English Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Monday to Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 7:00 a.m. Wednesday and Friday

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 Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 17th to September 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert and Susie Brandley from September 24th until September 30th.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for Hurricane Irma Relief.

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.

KOC MEETING: There will be the Knight's monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 19th. We will be meeting in the Parish Hall with food at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council will meet on Thursday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Pledge Sunday for our annual Catholic Charities Appeal will be September 24th. You should have received a letter and a pledge card from the diocese. Our pledge goal this year is \$21,615. All money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese.

ANNIVERSARY OF *SUMMORUM PONTIFICUM*: *Summorum Pontificum*, an apostolic letter from Pope Benedict XVI, took effect on September 14th, 2007. This September 14th therefore marks the 10th 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 diocese-wide High Mass offered at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 30th at St Paul's Cathedral.

PARISH WORKDAY: We will have a Parish Workday on Saturday, October 7th 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 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.

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 7th 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

2017 HIGH MASS DATES: October 29th (Christ the King); December 17th (Gaudete Sunday); Sunday, December 24th (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 20th.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$3902 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$65. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

- Mon, Sept 18: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ann Carletti & Family (by the Agnew Family)
- Tues, Sept 19: *8:30 a.m. Private Intention
- Wed, Sept 20: *7:00 a.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long (by Mary Margaret Rumore)
*8:30 a.m. † Dr. Richard Geraghty (by the Sampedro Family)
- Thur, Sept 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Katie Cornutt (by the Runge Family)
- Fri, Sept 22: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Debbie Zeller (by the Runge Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Margaret Runge (by the Runge Family)
- Sat, Sept 23: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Don Taylor (by the Sampedro Family)
- Sun, Sept 24: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. † John Doran (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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24, 27, Mt 20:1-16
- 9:00 a.m. Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24, 27, Mt 20:1-16
- 10:45 a.m. Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11

The Sacraments: The Graces of Confession

The graces of the sacrament of reconciliation, also called penance or confession, can be briefly summarized as follows: ‘Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion’ (Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1422).

The first effect is that we are reconciled with God. It must be noted that it is God who is the one who ultimately forgives. The priest has no power on his own to forgive anyone’s sins. The priest is merely the instrument of God’s forgiveness. In saying ‘I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ it should be clear that the priest does not invoke his own authority but God’s. It is the same basic reality that we hear at Mass: ‘Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.’ We do not receive the priest’s body or his blood any more than the priest’s body has been given up for the salvation of sinners or the priest’s blood has been poured out for the forgiveness of sins. This is an example of the priest operating ‘*in persona Christi*’ or in the person of Christ. In a certain way, it is like an ambassador who speaks with the authority of the ruler he represents. The priest, like an ambassador, is empowered to speak on the King’s behalf.

Biblically, it is clear that Jesus asked his Apostles to “*do this in remembrance of Me*” (Lk 22:19) at the Last Supper, empowering them to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, just He empowered them to forgive sins in His name when He told the same Apostles three days later “*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you... Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*” (Jn 20:21-23). Since the Christian has no right to withhold his own forgiveness for those who sin against him personally, it stands to reason that what Jesus said pertains to God’s forgiveness of other people’s sins. We are obliged to forgive those who sin against us, so retaining sins, withholding our own forgiveness, is not a legitimate response on the Christian’s part. But a priest might have to retain someone’s sins instead of forgiving them in God’s name because they do not express sorrow or a purpose of amendment. In other words, our forgiveness of one another must be unconditional if we expect to receive God’s mercy, but God has the conditions of sorrow for our sins and amendment of our ways in order to receive His forgiveness.

In any case, it is important to note that the sacrament of confession can absolve both venial and mortal sins. After baptism, confession is the only sure and certain way to be reconciled with God and His Church for mortal sins. Many tell themselves that they will just go directly to Jesus, but that is not a certain means finding forgiveness. Why not? Because Jesus has given us the gift of the sacraments and it is hardly a good faith endeavor to hold His plan for our salvation in disdain. It is not as if confessing our sins to a priest, an unworthy emissary of Jesus, is a horrid or overly burdensome expectation. It is simply a matter of being honest and humble.

As the Catechism notes, reconciliation with the Church is also an effect, a grace, of the sacrament of confession. This is an aspect that is lost on most people. Indeed, we cannot claim to be reconciled with God while being estranged from our brothers and sisters. The priest, therefore, also speaks on behalf of the Church when he grants absolution. The absolved Christian goes from being estranged from God and His Church to being forgiven and returned to communion with the Church. Sadly, many people do not realize or perhaps do not care about being in communion with the Church. They will receive the Eucharist in a state of sin thinking they are drawing closer to Jesus, but a major aspect of receiving Communion is not just communion with Jesus but also communion one another. This is why Jesus insists “*Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift*” (Mt 5:23-24).

- Fr Booth