

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 23rd/24th 2017: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sixteenth 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.

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 Robert and Susie Brandley, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from September 24th to September 30th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen and Jack Schauer from October 1st until October 7th.

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: This is Pledge Sunday for our annual Catholic Charities Appeal. 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 marked 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.

FIRST SUNDAY: October 1st is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

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.

COAT DRIVE: Blessed Sacrament's Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a winter coat drive beginning on Sunday, October 8th. If you have men's, lady's or children's coats that you no longer need, please consider donating them to the poor, or new coats would certainly be welcome. Coats may be left in the shopping carts near the holy water font at the back of the Church. The coats will be given the Catholic Center of Concern for distribution.

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.)

PRELIMINARY DATE FOR FIRST COMMUNION: We are planning for First Communion on Sunday, April 15th 2018 at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. If you have a child that will be receiving First Communion, please contact Fr Booth. If you are not members of Blessed Sacrament, you must obtain the permission of your pastor for your child to receive First Communion here. Opportunities for first confessions will be offered prior to First Communion.

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.

THANK YOU: Mary and Betty Mason would like to thank everyone for their support after the passing of Eugene Mason. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of Eugene's soul.

THANK YOU: Ella Mae Hale would like to thank the parish for the prayers and support she has received during her illness.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4656, the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$65, and \$1559 was collected for Hurricane Irma relief. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Mon, Sept 25: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ken Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Tues, Sept 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for David Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Wed, Sept 27: *7:00 a.m. † Special Intention for Jack & Mandy Robichaux (by the Pohorelsky Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Christy Campbell (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Thur, Sept 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Beau Flavin (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Fri, Sept 29: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Bob Doyle (by the Pohorelsky Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Eugene Mason (by Ann Noblitt & Ginny Daniel)
Sat, Sept 30: 4:00 p.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long (by Julia Bryant)
Sun, Oct 1: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Michael Bohn & Jacob Baker (by John Minjares)
4:00 p.m. Private Intention - *Mass in Tuscaloosa*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Fr Kevin McGrath, OSB, Johnny Young, Sharon Collier, Richard Collier, Paul Pac, Jacob Baker, Ella Mae Hale, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Peter Ransom, 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, Liz Pate, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Mary Thornton, Liz Bailey, Thatcher Kerzie, 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. Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, 27, Mt 21:28-32
9:00 a.m. Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, 27, Mt 21:28-32
10:45 a.m. Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46

The Sacraments: The Graces of Confession

The sacrament of confession reconciles us with God when we have committed serious – mortal – sins after the time of our baptism. These are the two sacraments, baptism and confession, that Jesus gave us for addressing the problems of original sin and our own personal sins. It is important to stress that Jesus has given us an ordinary means with an extraordinary effect. He did not say that we could pick and choose how we might be saved any more than He said that salvation could be obtained apart from faith. But we have a strong tendency to want to do things our way and we seek an easy or at least an easier way.

This is exactly how we end up with the false teaching of salvation by faith alone apart from anything else. Again, faith is indispensable to salvation, but so is love. St Paul makes this crystal clear when he says *“If I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing”* (1Cor 13:2-3). Likewise, Jesus makes baptism a condition for salvation: *“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned”* (Mk 16:15-16).

Does this mean that baptism and confession are the only means of having mortal sins forgiven? No, but they are the only ordinary means, the means that Jesus intends us to use. Many point out that the Good Thief, Dismas, was not baptized yet Jesus promised him heaven saying *“Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise”* (Lk 23:43). But did Dismas have the opportunity to be baptized? Would the Roman soldiers have permitted John the Apostle to baptize Dismas as he hung upon his cross? Not likely. Indeed, it is presumptuous to assume that just because the Good Thief was not held to the impossible standard of being baptized on the cross that somehow we will be given a pass when baptism is a definite possibility and so widely available. The very same principle applies in regard to going to confession.

Many object that they do not want to go to confession. Understandable. But almost nobody really wants to die either, but die we must. The Catechism gives us an insight in this regard: ‘In this sacrament, the sinner, placing himself before the merciful judgment of God, anticipates in a certain way the judgment to which he will be subjected at the end of his earthly life. For it is now, in this life, that we are offered the choice between life and death, and it is only by the road of conversion that we can enter the Kingdom, from which one is excluded by grave sin. In converting to Christ through penance and faith, the sinner passes from death to life and does not come into judgment’ (CCC 1470). Granted we all dread, to varying degrees, our own deaths, but shouldn’t we truly and profoundly dread the prospect of dying with unconfessed mortal sins on our souls? Is it really a wise and reasonable approach to avoiding the eternal pains of hell by avoiding the slightly painful process of confessing our sins while we have the opportunity? Is it reasonable to hope that Jesus will find another way to save us if we place no faith or hope in the very means of salvation He has already given to us?

To hold Jesus’ means of salvation in disdain can hardly be seen as a good faith gesture on our part. Nor can it be said that avoiding the confessional is a sign of hope but more of a sign of presumption. Likewise, can we say that we love Jesus with our whole heart if we choose not to be reconciled with Him on His terms? Yes, Jesus is infinitely merciful, but we must never forget that there are conditions on His mercy. Jesus *“indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised”* (2Cor 5:15). Likewise, *“The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard delay, but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2Pet 3:9). Thus, we must live for Jesus who died for us and who will be patient with us such that we might come to repentance. That we have the opportunity to avail ourselves of the graces of confessing our sins not just once but throughout our lives is a sign of His mercy and patience. But that patience ends at our deaths.

- Fr Booth