

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*September 30th/October 1st 2017: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Seventeenth 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 Eileen and Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from October 1st to October 7th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bonnie Lee from October 8th until October 14th.

REST IN PEACE: Mary Catherine Fish passed away on September 25th and was laid to rest on September 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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a letter and a pledge card from the diocese. If not, you can make a pledge through Blessed Sacrament (make checks payable to Catholic Charities) or online at <http://www.catholiccharitiesbhm.org/make-a-pledge.html>. Our pledge goal this year is \$21,615. All money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese.

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

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday Mass on October 6th 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 October 7th. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow 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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$3452 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$165. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Mon, Oct 2: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Tues, Oct 3: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Gabriel Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Wed, Oct 4: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Jim & Joy Pinto (by the Gagnon Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Althea Faye Hall (by the Helen Brandley)
Thur, Oct 5: *8:30 a.m. † Clayton Schexnaildre (by the Rumore Family)
Fri, Oct 6: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Anthony Rumore, Jr. (by the Gagnon Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Allison Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Oct 7: 8:30 a.m. † JoAnn Smith (by the Gagnon Family)
4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by Bill and Marian Dinan)
Sun, Oct 8: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Maggie Thompson (by the Hahn Family)
4:00 p.m. Private Intention - *Mass in Tuscaloosa*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Lamar Smith, 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 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-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Mt 21:33-43
9:00 a.m. Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Mt 21:33-43
10:45 a.m. Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost 1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8

The Sacraments: The Graces of Confession

The primary effect of the sacrament of confession is the forgiveness of sin such that we are reconciled with God and His Church. This forgiveness eliminates the eternal ramification of mortal sins – the eternal punishments of hell – but does not necessarily address the temporal effects of our sins. This last category, the temporal effects of our sins, does not really bother many people today. Nevertheless the temporal effects of our sins might be seen as scars left behind from serious wounds otherwise healed. These scars might be self-inflicted or inflicted on others. If I hit someone, I might give them a black eye and bruise my knuckles, effects that might last well after forgiveness is sought and given. If bones are broken, healing will take even longer. Indeed, some scars, despite forgiveness, will persist.

Spiritually, we scar others and ourselves through our sins. We especially scar ourselves through persistent sin. The gossip can fall deeper into that habit the more they gossip. It might begin to happen without thought or consideration. They might become configured for gossip such that it might become second nature. We could say that they have become attached to gossip. The man who watches pornography cannot un-see those images no matter how much he might regret having seen them. He has polluted his memory. Those memories can come back to haunt him later and they can predispose him to return to that particular sin or other related sins. Again, something like pornography can easily become a habit or an addiction, a sinful attachment. Another ramification besides a polluted memory and a predisposition towards falling again is the damage that occurs to relationships: the relationships with the women in his life – mother, sister, wife, daughter – are damaged, the relationship with all women is corrupted, and a perverse bond is formed with the women the man has lusted after. This last part might not be obvious until we ponder Jesus' teaching on lust: "*I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart*" (Mt 5:28).

Bringing them to confession absolves the guilt of these and all other sins, but the effects of those sins remain. The gossip and the pervert (and the glutton, and the wrathful, and the blasphemer, and the thief, and the liar, etc.) have attachments to their sins despite the fact that the guilt of those sins has been absolved through confession. This is one reason why we tend to return over and over to particular sins. So, can we imagine the gossip dying in a state of grace and entering into heaven but continuing to hurt the reputations of others? Can the man who has seen pornography take those memories with him to heaven after having died reconciled with God? Only if death in and of itself wipes our memories completely clean and gives us a completely new personality. But would we be ourselves with a blank memory or a personality that is foreign to the earthly lives we have lived? If so, we would have no memory of loved ones whatsoever and no knowledge of the God we'd be spending eternity with. The love that grew during a lifetime, love of God and neighbor, would be no more. In other words, there must be a mechanism that cleanses us after death of the effects of our sins that does not destroy our memory or our personality.

This mechanism is what we call purgatory. In purgatory, the temporal effects of sin for those who die in a state of grace are wiped away while not wiping our memories or our personalities completely clean. Our attachments to sin will be undone in purgatory as well. Those who die with mortal sin on their souls have no need to be cleansed. Purgatory serves no purpose for the damned.

But we can address these attachments to sin here on earth before we die through indulgences. 'An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints' (CCC 1471). Indulgences can be seen as the fruit of a life of prayer and penance that helps us break free from the temporal effects of our sins and helps us weaken or even overcome our attachment to our sins.

- Fr Booth