

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*October 7th/October 8th 2017: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Bonnie Lee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from October 8th to October 14th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Pete Dichiara, Jr. from October 15th until October 21st.

KOC MEETING: There will be the Knight's monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 10th. 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.

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.

COAT DRIVE: Blessed Sacrament's Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a winter coat drive beginning this Sunday. 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

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.

2017 HIGH MASS DATES: 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, 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 \$4957 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$455. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Mon, Oct 9: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Michael Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Tues, Oct 10: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for John & Dorothy Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
Wed, Oct 11: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by the Duryea Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jacqueline Crepeau (by the Sampedro Family)
Thur, Oct 12: *8:30 a.m. † Mary Sue Thompson (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Fri, Oct 13: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Allison Rumore (by the Pohorelsky Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Dorothy Mae Nixon (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Sat, Oct 14: 4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Oct 15: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. † Patricia Pearson (by the Gagnon Family)

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 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. 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 25:6-10, Phil 4:12-14, 19-20, Mt 22:1-14
9:00 a.m. 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 25:6-10, Phil 4:12-14, 19-20, Mt 22:1-14
10:45 a.m. 19 th Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 4:23-28, Mt 22:1-14

The Sacraments: The Graces of Confession

The Catechism talks about indulgences, saying that ‘To understand this doctrine and practice of the Church, it is necessary to understand that sin has a double consequence. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the eternal punishment of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures [i.e., created realities], which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the temporal punishment of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin. A conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain’ (CCC 1472).

It is the sacrament of confession that does what we have no power to do, that is, to obtain pardon from grave sin and the eternal punishment that is the just consequence of our grave sin. We cannot earn or work for this forgiveness of grave sin but it is given to us by God’s grace through the sacrament of confession. The attachment to worldly things that sin brings about, however, is something that we can work on in this life. And some of the ways we can work on diminishing the temporal punishment of sin in through acts of devotion, almsgiving, and self-mortification.

Yes, we can still make it to heaven without performing acts of devotion, almsgiving, and self-mortification in reparation for the temporal effects of sin so long as we die in a state of grace, but we will find that remaining in a state of grace is just that much more difficult if we avoid doing acts of devotion, almsgiving, and self-mortification. The more we train ourselves, the more we grow in virtue through prayer, acts of charity, and self-denial, the less we will be attached to our sins, and the less we will suffer from the temporal effects of our sins. In other words, salutary acts done with faith, hope, and charity aid us in growing more Christ-like and make obtaining heaven easier (not that we can earn heaven).

Thus, indulgences are human works that help us overcome sinfulness and the effects of sinfulness. The more we are attuned to such acts the less attached we will be to worldly things. These worldly things might be along the lines of loving mere things as if a car or a house is worthy of our love, being attached to what we perceive to be the pleasures or benefits of our sins, being more prone to desire sin through repeated sin, and so forth.

Indeed, if we die with worldly attachments, those attachments will have to be resolved in Purgatory prior to entering into heaven. If a man were attached to pornography but dies reconciled with God, he will have to be liberated from that attachment. Since sinful attachments are both physical and spiritual, mere death does not solve the problem since the spiritual attachment will persist even though the physical attachment ceases at death. In the same way, somebody who is in love with their car will have to overcome that attachment since loving mere things is a form of idolatry. Or someone who is hanging onto anger when they die will have to resolve that resentment before entry into heaven. After all, can we imagine lustful thoughts, idolatry, or wrath in heaven?

Thus, we are given a choice in this world. Actually, it is two choices. First, we have to choose to go to heaven through the means that Jesus has given us (the graces of the sacraments, faith, hope, love, living a moral life, etc.). If we make the right choice and strive to die in God’s good graces, we have the further choice of addressing the worldly or temporal aspects of our sins either now in this life through acts of devotion, almsgiving, and self-mortification or later in Purgatory after we die. Just a little bit of thought should lead us to the conclusion that it would be better to address our worldly attachments now instead of later. This should especially be the case when we consider that acts of devotion, almsgiving, and self-mortification help predispose us to follow Christ more fervently and more closely. Thus, through indulgences – acts of devotion, almsgiving, and self-mortification – we not only cleanse ourselves of worldly attachments but also more firmly attach ourselves to Jesus.

- Fr Booth