

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

*November 4<sup>th</sup>/November 5<sup>th</sup> 2017: 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)*

*22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211**

**Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)**

**Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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 Dominick Montalbano, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from November 5<sup>th</sup> to November 12<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Angela and Dominick Montalbano from November 13<sup>th</sup> until November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS** for 2018, 2019, and 2020 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church

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

**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)

**ST ROSE OPEN HOUSE:** Saint Rose Academy will host an Open House for Prospective Parents on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:15-9:30 a.m. Saint Rose Academy, which is located at 1401 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S., is a private, Catholic, co-educational school serving students in 3K through eighth grade. The Open House begins in the Library with a brief introduction followed by a tour of the school. Guests are invited to join us for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 9:30 in the gym.

**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.

**2017 HIGH MASS DATES:** December 17<sup>th</sup> (Gaudete Sunday); Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (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 \$3506 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$450. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Mon, Nov 6: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Theresa Minor and Family (by the Agnew Family)  
Tues, Nov 7: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Patty Rajewski (by the Agnews)  
Wed, Nov 8: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Noah Martignoni (by the Rumore Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Bro. Augustine Campion, OSB (by Don Peterson)  
Thur, Nov 9: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jane Connell  
Fri, Nov 10: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Lily Rohling (by the Rumore Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jane Baylor  
Sat, Nov 11: 4:00 p.m. † Ella Mae Hale (by the Bryant Family)  
Sun, Nov 12: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*  
10:45 a.m. † Joseph Kelly (by Mary Jane Kelly)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Laura Minjares, John Minjares, Sr., Lamar Smith, Fr Kevin McGrath, OSB, Johnny Young, Sharon Collier, Richard Collier, Paul Pac, Jacob Baker, 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, Mike Hale, Kay Junk, Liz Pate, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Mary Thornton, Liz Bailey, Thatcher Kerzie, Simmes Bevell, 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. 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time      Wis 6:12-16, 1Thes 4:13-18, Mt 25:1-13  
9:00 a.m. 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time      Wis 6:12-16, 1Thes 4:13-18, Mt 25:1-13  
10:45 a.m. 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost      Phil 3:17-4:3, Mt 9:18-26

## ***The Sacraments: The Graces of the Anointing of the Sick***

In the early Church, one of the gravest abuses of the sacraments was deliberately delaying baptism. Many people did this so that they could continue to live sinful lives and receive the graces of baptism at the very last possible moment. It would seem that these people wanted to have their sin and salvation too as if being a Christian was a game or even an afterthought. Adult baptism generally requires faith and a sorrow for sins. Does someone who deliberately delays baptism to the last possible moment really have faith let alone sorrow for sins? How sorrowful could they really be for their sins if they chose to keep on sinning until it was almost too late? More disturbingly, just how many people died before the priest arrived to baptize them, or how many people who deliberately delayed their baptism died suddenly with no opportunity to even ask for a deathbed baptism?

This behavior strongly suggests the sin of presumption. Presumption, a sin against the virtue of hope, it is thinking that we can receive the gift of forgiveness without actually striving to repent of sin or actively seeking forgiveness. This presumes on God's mercy without really wanting that mercy or without even asking for it. Yes, God is merciful beyond our ability to fathom, but God will not be mocked. If Jesus begins His ministry saying "*This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel*" (Mk 1:15) and ends it saying "*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned*" (Mk 16:16), it is impossible to say that an adult can expect or presume to be saved without faith, repentance, and baptism.

Today, deliberately delaying baptism does not seem to be a problem in the way it was many centuries ago. Those who choose not be baptized generally do so with no thought of trying to time their baptism for the last moment: eternal salvation does not seem to be important to them. More common today, however, are those who want to delay their confession to the last moment or to skip confession altogether thinking that they can have their sins forgiven through the anointing of the sick instead. Yes, the anointing of the sick does forgive mortal sin, but that forgiveness presumes two things: first, that the one who is anointed is incapable of confessing their sins prior to the anointing, and second, they would have confessed their sin had they had the opportunity. In other words, the anointing of the sick is not a substitute for confessing our sins. That it is capable forgiving mortal sins for those who would have confessed their sins if they were able is a sign of God's mercy just as making the sacrament of confession available is also a sign of His mercy.

Again, the primary effect of the anointing is the strengthening of the soul to face serious sickness and death, to face the temptations, tribulation, and potential despair that come at the end of our lives. The soul that is in a state of grace is strengthened to face these challenges through the anointing of the sick. Part of that strengthening is the forgiveness of venial sins. The soul that is in mortal sin, however, first needs to be absolved before it can be strengthened. Indeed, how could a soul in mortal sin be strengthened to fight against evil when that soul is already estranged from God, when that soul has embraced evil through serious sin, when satan already has a claim upon that soul? Without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we enjoy when we are in a state of grace, how can we really contend with the forces of hell without divine assistance? This is why the Church insists that the anointing of the sick is meant primarily for those who are in a state of grace. The forgiveness of mortal sin that is possible with the anointing can only come for those who are in mortal sin but who longed to be reconciled with God. For those who skip confession and hope to be forgiven through the anointing of the sick, how could it be said that they longed to be reconciled with God when they chose not to go to confession for five, ten, twenty, or fifty years? Under most circumstances, how could it be said that they did not have the opportunity to confess their sins over the course of five, ten, twenty, or fifty years?

This is why the value of frequent confession cannot be overstated. This is why the peril of putting off a confession cannot be overstated either.

- Fr Booth