

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

November 25th/November 26th 2017: Christ the King (English)
24th and Last Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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 Dominick Montalbano, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from November 26th to December 2nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Dominick and Angela Montalbano from December 3rd until December 9th.

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.

REST IN PEACE: Rebecca Morris, mother of Tony Morris and Gwen Branch, passed away on November 20th. The visitation will be on Monday, November 27th at Arrington Funeral Home from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. and the Funeral will be at Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, November 28th at 11:00 a.m. 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.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local communality. Please bring the gift items back with the angel tag attached by next Sunday, December 17th.

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR: This Sunday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m., the Franciscan Missionaries of The Eternal Word will be doing another televised Eucharistic Holy Hour for persecuted Christians in the EWTN chapel, located at 5817 Old Leeds Rd, Irondale, 35210.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday Mass on December 1st 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 December 2nd. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

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

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.

2017 HIGH MASS DATES: December 17th (Gaudete Sunday); Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.)

2018 TENTATIVE HIGH MASS DATES: Sunday, February 4th (Sexagesima Sunday), Sunday, March 11th (Laetare Sunday), Thursday, March 29th (Holy Thursday), Sunday, April 1st (Easter Sunday), Sunday, April 15th (First Communion, Second Sunday After Easter), Thursday, May 31st (Corpus Christi, Thursday 6:00 p.m.), Sunday, July 1st (Precious Blood), Wednesday, August 15th (Assumption, Wednesday 6:00 p.m.), Sunday, September 2nd (Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost), Sunday, October 28th (Christ the King), Sunday, December 16th (Gaudete Sunday), Monday, December 24th (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$5486, the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$125, and \$742 were donated for the Beacons of Hope. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

- Mon, Nov 27: *8:30 a.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)
- Tues, Nov 28: *8:30 a.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word)
- Wed, Nov 29: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Anna Rumore (by the Rumore Family)
*8:30 a.m. † The Priests in Purgatory (by Mary Donellan)
- Thur, Nov 30: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Amanda Schneidau (by the Pohorelsky Family)
- Fri, Dec 1: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Rebecca Fernandes (by the Rumore Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Blackstone Family (by the Runge Family)
- Sat, Dec 2: 8:30 a.m. † Kori Kaelberer (by the Rumore Family)
4:00 p.m. Private Intention
- Sun, Dec 3: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. † Joanne Seese (by Alan and Pam Olson)
4:00 p.m. Private Intention – *Mass in Tuscaloosa*

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, 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 Bevill, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Anna Marie Madison, Kathleen Strawmeyer, Cindy Little, 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

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| 4:00 p.m. First Sunday of Advent | Isa 63:16-17,19,64:2-7, 1Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37 |
| 9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent | Isa 63:16-17,19,64:2-7, 1Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37 |
| 10:45 a.m. First Sunday of Advent | Rom 13:11-14, Lk 21:25-33 |

The Sacraments: Matrimony

At one time we understood marriage. Maybe not at the level of a theologian or a scholar, but most people had a very basic knowledge of what matrimony was, and equally important, what it was not. Some today say we have made great so-called progress in the realm of marriage – easy divorce, deliberately childless homes, a completely false understanding of who can marry whom, etc. – but from a perspective of faith, it is almost entirely indisputable that we as a culture have lost our way when it comes to matrimony.

Part of the problem is that we have bought the lie that we are totally sovereign as individuals. We have bought the lie that the individual and only the individual is the essence of society. If, for example, both the bride and groom must consent to enter into a marriage, it makes zero sense to say that only one of these parties is required to consent to a divorce. After all, if a man cannot marry a woman against her will, then why would we ever think that either the man or the woman could divorce the other against the other's will? We understood at one time that a marriage could not even be dissolved based on the consent of both husband and wife absent a just and compelling reason. But now, one spouse can call it quits and be granted a divorce for no reason whatsoever.

So, it is important and instructive to keep in mind what the Church says about what marriage is. Courts and countries and even cultures come and go. The Church is the only social institution that will be here for generation after generation. The Church is the only institution with 2,000 years of practical experience with humanity. And most importantly, the Church is instituted, guided, and inspired by God Himself. The Church is entrusted with the Gospel and is answerable to God alone. Courts, countries, and cultures tend to answer to no one but themselves. And one thing that courts, countries, and cultures fail to recognize is that marriage predates any court, country, or culture. To put it another way, marriage is not the product of any court, country, or culture.

On the contrary, marriage, like the Church, was instituted by God. Unlike the Church, marriage's institution dates from the very beginning of mankind, as the traditional nuptial blessing gives witness: 'O God, by whom woman is joined to man, and the partnership, ordained from the beginning, is endowed with such blessing that it alone was not withdrawn either by the punishment of Original Sin, nor by the sentence of the Flood...' Thus, marriage predates every human institution and is the only human institution to survive the Great Flood: in fact, all eight humans to survive the flood consisted of four married couples.

While the institution of marriage predates both Original Sin and the cleansing action of the Flood, human nature sadly remains in a fallen state. Since the institution itself was originally intended for men and women free from the effects of sin, Jesus raised marriage to a sacrament, an avenue of grace, in order to assist husband and wife in the trials that come about because of their sinfulness but also to bring husband and wife to the heavenly wedding feast of the Lamb. Thus, the Church can define marriage in the following way: 'The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament' (Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1601).

So, whether a marriage is a natural, non-sacramental marriage between a man and a woman where one or both is not baptized or a sacramental marriage where both spouses have been baptized, God Himself is the author. In the course of human history, only one rightful change in marriage – its being raised to a sacrament – has occurred and that change was brought about by God, Who is the only legitimate authority over the institution of marriage. But if we have fallen for the lie that we are entirely sovereign unto ourselves, we will naturally discount God's role in marriage and we will institute innovations utterly foreign to God's design and man's dignity.

- Fr Booth