

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

January 20th/January 21st 2018: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Third Sunday After Epiphany (Latin)



**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 Rebecca Morris, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from January 14th to January 20th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of McEllelon Croom III from January 21st until January 27th.

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.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES for 2018 are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

PARISH CALENDARS for 2018 are located in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

POINSETTIAS are available in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection next weekend for the Church in Latin America.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

POTLUCK DINNER DANCE: We will have a covered dish dinner dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, February 10th following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to dine and dance.

HOMECOMING LASAGNA DINNER: The annual Blessed Sacrament Homecoming Lasagna Dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will be held on February 24th following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited and all will be welcome. Please invite your families and friends to this event to share this special time with your fellow parishioners.

JOBS AT EWTN: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They are searching for qualified candidates for the following positions: Animation Graphics Designer, Broadcast Technician, Network & Systems Administrator, Technical Operations Center Operator, Viewer Services Representative & Maintenance Technician. For information on job requirements, go to www.ewtn.com.

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 \$5098 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$490. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

2018 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.).

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

Sun, Jan 21: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Jan 22 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for The Russel Family (by the Clemons Family)
Tues, Jan 23: *8:30 a.m. † Mario Botta (by the Juneau Family)
Wed, Jan 24: *7:00 a.m. † Tommy Azar (by the Rumore Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Mario Candida (by Adriane Price)
Thur, Jan 25: *8:30 a.m. † Fr Andrew Apostoli, CFR (by Adriane Price)
Fri, Jan 26: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Sr Mary Thomas of the Holy Name of Jesus (by the Rumore Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Roland Juneau (by the Juneau Family)
Sat, Jan 27: 4:00 p.m. Private Intention
Sun, Jan 28: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. Special Intention Mr. & Mrs. Terry Rumore, Jr. (by John Paul Hahn)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Sylvia McCarrick, Vealena Early, William Scroggins, 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, 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, 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

4:00 p.m. Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Duet 18:15-20, 1Cor 7:32-35, Mk 1:21-28
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Duet 18:15-20, 1Cor 7:32-35, Mk 1:21-28
10:45 a.m. Septuagesima Sunday	1Cor 9:24-10:5, Mt 20:1-16

The Sacraments: Holy Orders

Today there is a profound focus on wielding power. Much of this comes from the secularist movement that has been growing in influence since the 1960s. To the secularist, power is everything and obtaining it is the very meaning of life. We have only to look at our politicians. Being a senator or congressman was once understood as a service and a civic duty. Or at least that is what our founding fathers had in mind. They saw members of congress and even the president as citizen statesmen, not as careerists in it all for themselves. It was never understood as a way of life nor was it seen as a career. A man might leave his farm or trading company to represent his fellow citizens for a brief period of time, not to rule over them throughout the year or even year after year. Ruling over people was what nobility did in the old world. Our democracy was a sound rejection of power held by a few over the many. But with the advent of career politicians, with election campaigns costing hundreds of millions of dollars or even billions of dollars, it should not be surprising that we now have a ruling class that is little different from royalty. For example, the recent presidential campaign cost a whopping 2.4 billion dollars. Hardly a price tag that is consistent with the idea of the citizen statesman.

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle all studied the reality of politics and put forth philosophical principals for just and temperate governance. Marxism, however, marked a change in politics. History, according to Karl Marx, was not the study of countries, wars, events, and movements at various periods of time, but a science that can be used to manipulate the future of whole societies. Now we have fields of study, such as political science, that are hardly sciences any more than history is a science.

So it should not be a surprise that many see the world through the lens of power. For the secularist, power is an idol. Equally, it should not be a surprise that this view of power, even its very worship, has entered into how many people view the Church. Thus, many see the clergy as a ruling class that holds power over the faithful. Many see the clergy as standing in the way of transforming the Church to be more like the secular world. This is exactly what has happened in some protestant denominations where politics are of a far greater concern than the Gospel, or their understanding of the Gospel has become political as opposed to spiritual.

It is therefore essential to understand what the sacrament of holy orders is and what it is not. The Catechism teaches that 'The word "ordination" is reserved for the sacramental act which integrates a man into the order of bishops, presbyters, or deacons, and goes beyond a simple election, designation, delegation, or institution by the community, for it confers a gift of the Holy Spirit that permits the exercise of a "sacred power" (*sacra potestas*) which can come only from Christ himself through his Church. Ordination is also called *consecratio*, for it is a setting apart and an investiture by Christ himself for his Church. The laying on of hands by the bishop, with the consecratory prayer, constitutes the visible sign of this ordination' (CCC 1538).

What this paragraph teaches is that the deacon, priest, and bishop do indeed have power, but that power is exclusively spiritual, sacred power. Specifically, that power is not and can never be self-serving. This sacred power is for the service, sanctification, and salvation of souls. That sacred power is in service of both Jesus and His people. No deacon, priest, or bishop can use their spiritual power for themselves. For example, a priest cannot forgive his own sins. Nor can a priest ordain himself a bishop.

Likewise, the faithful do not delegate power to the clergy as in a democracy nor are the clergy appointed or elected by the people. Their spiritual power comes from Christ so that His mission might continue in this world. They are not elected or appointed by mere men but called by Jesus. The clergy cannot change the truths of the faith because Jesus has not delegated such power to the deacons, priests, bishops, or even the pope. Many people today want a priest or a bishop that will conform to their secular agenda. Irrespective of what people might want, what is really needed are clergy that help people conform themselves to Christ.

- Fr Booth