

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*February 10th/February 11th 2018: Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Quinquagesima Sunday (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Austin Thomas, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 11th to February 17th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Jr. from February 18th until February 24th.

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 STATEMENTS for 2017 are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

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

KOC MEETING: Our Knight of Columbus will have their regular monthly meeting this coming Tuesday, February 13th in the parish hall. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 14th is Ash Wednesday. We will have a Latin Mass at 7:00 a.m., an English Mass at 8:30 a.m., and a Latin Mass at 6:00 p.m.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection next weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

STATEMENT ON VALENTINES DAY: Valentines Day falls on Ash Wednesday this year. Per the directive of the bishop, we are still required to observe the fasting and abstinence requirements for Ash Wednesday. The bishop recommends that those who celebrate Valentines Day do so on another day so as to maintain the requirements of the Lenten discipline.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (no Stations on Friday, February 23rd and Stations on Good Friday, March 30th it will be at 2:30 p.m.) followed by a Lenten potluck meal. We will also have confessions following Stations.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT: This year we will again collect various non-perishable items for the men in the Cenacolo addiction recovery center in Hanceville. For the first Sunday of Lent, we will collect breakfast cereals such as grits, oatmeal, breakfast bars, etc.

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.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4514 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$965. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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.

2018 HIGH MASS DATES: 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, Feb 11: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Frances Jane Pohorelsky (by the Rumore Family)

Mon, Feb 12 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Agnew (by the Agnew Family)

Tues, Feb 13: *8:30 a.m. † Pearline Curry (by Helen Brandley)

Wed, Feb 14: 7:00 a.m. † Roberta Kemper Buste (by Mary Jane Kelly)
8:30 a.m. Special Intention for John Agnew (by the Agnew Family)
6:00 p.m. Special Intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)

Thur, Feb 15: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Curtis Davis

Fri, Feb 16: *7:00 a.m. † Cathy Rock Lee (by Mary Jane Kelly)
*8:30 a.m. † Bill Mara (by Ann Noblitt & Ginny Daniel)

Sat, Feb 17: 4:00 p.m. † Steve Melendez (by Ann Noblitt)

Sun, Feb 18: 9:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for John Morgan (by the Donellan Family)

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, 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. First Sunday of Lent	Gen 9:8-15, 1Pet 3:18-22, Mk 1:12-15
9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Lent	Gen 9:8-15, 1Pet 3:18-22, Mk 1:12-15
10:45 a.m. First Sunday of Lent	2Cor 6:1-10, Mt 4:1-11

The Sacraments: Holy Orders

Since the time of Martin Luther, there has been a constant attitude that there is no need for priests. The argument typically hinges on the fact that a mere man, which every priest is, has no power to forgive sins or to make Jesus present in the Eucharist. When seen as mere men only, this is true. Earlier arguments against the priesthood invoked the reality that being mere men, and therefore sinners, priests could not possibly do anything sacred. How could a human sinner do what Jesus did, Who was both divine and sinless? Nevertheless, Jesus entrusted His Church to continue His ministry on earth. Jesus was empowered by the Father and Jesus delegates that power to His Church. We see this in the Great Commission: “*Then Jesus approached and said to [to the Eleven], ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’*” (Mt 28:18-20).

The fact that Jesus empowers the Church through the remaining 11 Apostles to teach and baptize in His name and to observe all that He commanded them to do is key to understanding how mere men can do what priests have been entrusted to do. It is Jesus’ power that brings forth the graces of baptism, it is Jesus’ power that forgives sins, it is Jesus’ power that makes Him present in the Eucharist, and so forth. Again, this power was delegated from the Father to the Son, the Son delegates His power to the Church through the Apostles and their successors, and the Holy Spirit dwells in the Church guiding her to do what the Church and her ministers have been entrusted to do so that the ministry of Jesus might continue “*always, until the end of the age.*”

Since Jesus promised to always be with His Church, the Church teaches that ‘In the ecclesial service of the ordained minister, it is Christ himself who is present to his Church as Head of his Body, Shepherd of his flock, high priest of the redemptive sacrifice, Teacher of Truth. This is what the Church means by saying that the priest, by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, acts in *persona Christi Capitis [in the person of Christ the Head]*’ (CCC 1548). Thus, although a mere sinful man says ‘I baptize you...’, ‘This is My Body...’, ‘I absolve you from your sins...’ it is really Jesus that says these words: the priest is His delegate, His ambassador. In the same way, if the priest preaches and teaches the Gospel as Jesus gave it to us, it is as if Jesus is preaching and teaching. After all, Jesus taught His Apostles that “*He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me*” (Lk 10:16).

But as everyone knows, most preaching over the last 2000 years has fallen well short of the preaching of Christ. A priest might, over the course of a lifetime, preach without any form of defect maybe once or twice. Maybe. As a priest once quipped, ‘There is the homily that you prepared, there is the homily you actually preached, and there is the homily you ought to have preached. Seldom are all three homilies the same.’ The priest’s sinfulness, his human limitations, the effort he puts forth, his openness to divine assistance, and so forth all have an effect on how he teaches and how he preaches. That being said, however, there is an unchanging truth that has been entrusted to the Church and entrusted to the priesthood to proclaim until the end of time.

Even though the preaching and teaching of every priest is defective to one degree or another, the limitations, foibles, and faults of the priest do not stop Jesus from working sacramentally through His mere sinful human instrument. The Catechism goes on to teach that ‘This presence of Christ in the minister is not to be understood as if the latter were preserved from all human weaknesses, the spirit of domination, error, even sin. The power of the Holy Spirit does not guarantee all acts of ministers in the same way. While this guarantee extends to the sacraments, so that even the minister's sin cannot impede the fruit of grace, in many other acts the minister leaves human traces that are not always signs of fidelity to the Gospel and consequently can harm the apostolic fruitfulness of the Church’ (CCC 1550). Sadly, we have ample evidence of such ‘human traces.’

- Fr Booth