

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 17th/February 18th 2018: First Sunday of Lent



**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 Edward Von Hagel, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 18th to February 24th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Howard Von Hagel from February 25th until March 3rd.

REST IN PEACE: Vealina Little Earley, sister of Wayne Little, passed away on February 12th and was laid to rest on February 17th. 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.

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 have been mailed.

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

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.

FR BOOTH ON VACATION: Fr Booth will be on vacation from Monday, February 19th through Thursday, March 1st. Please welcome the priest from EWTN for our Vigil Mass on Saturday, February 24th and our Sunday Masses on February 25th. There will be no daily Masses from Monday, February 19th to Thursday, March 1st.

NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS THIS WEEK: We will NOT have Stations of the Cross this Friday, February 23rd because Fr Booth will be out of town.

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 second Sunday of Lent, we will collect cooking & baking items such as oil, sugar, all purpose flour, baking flour, tomato paste, tomato sauce, condiments, spices, etc. No vanilla extract, please.

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.

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.).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$2905 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$765. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sun, Feb 18:	9:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for John Morgan (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Feb 19		No Daily Mass Offered
Tues, Feb 20:		No Daily Mass Offered
Wed, Feb 21:		No Daily Mass Offered
Thur, Feb 22:		No Daily Mass Offered
Fri, Feb 23:		No Daily Mass Offered
Sat, Feb 24:	4:00 p.m.	Intention of the Visiting Priest
Sun, Feb 25:	9:00 a.m.	Intention of the Visiting Priest
	10:45 a.m.	Intention of the Visiting Priest

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Sylvia McCarrick, 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. Second Sunday of Lent	Gn 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mk 9:2-10
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gn 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mk 9:2-10
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

The Sacraments: Holy Orders

The sacrament of holy orders confers graces upon the deacon, priest, and the bishop such that they can perform their spiritual duties. Although there is one sacrament, there are three levels of participation with the bishop being the fullness of this participation. Participation in what? Quite simply the sacrament of holy orders enables a man to participate in the utterly unique priesthood of Christ.

This is a key concept to understand. The earthly priest does not replace, supplant, or compete with Jesus, as many seem to suspect. In a certain way, the clergy are called to do what Jesus would do if He still had an earthly ministry. Their ministry is not their own, but consists of participating in Jesus' priesthood so as to continue what Jesus did here on earth. Some might object that Jesus performed miracles: He drove out demons, He cured the sick, He fed the multitudes, He gave sight to the blind, He raised people from the dead, and so on. But can we say that the many deacons, priests, and bishops throughout do these same sorts of things today?

The answer is yes and no. It is yes in the respect that some priests, properly delegated by their bishop, do drive out demons and some people are physically cured by the anointing of the sick. We can say that bishops, priests, and deacons do cure a form of blindness, spiritual blindness, which in many respects is worse than physical lack of sight. We can also say that the clergy are to feed the multitudes spiritually through sound preaching and teaching, the example of their lives, as well as through the sacraments. And it must be understood that the sacraments, especially baptism and confession, bring spiritual life where there is spiritual death, which like blindness, is worse than its physical counterpart. While not exactly corresponding to what Jesus did in His ministry, the clergy carry on what Jesus was doing.

This may not be so obvious because we do not see the lame suddenly walking or someone rising from their grave like Lazarus. It is easy to overlook the continuation of Jesus' ministry through deacons, priests, and bishops because what the members of the clergy do is primary on a spiritual level. Jesus did not come to be a miracle worker but to reconcile mankind to God. Reconciliation is primarily a spiritual reality which can be brought about by a certain degree of physicality as in the water of baptism and the bread and wine that become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist. The physical miracles of Jesus – such as raising people from the dead or multiplying the loaves and fishes – were not the main event of Jesus' ministry but were signs of His authority and power to bring about the will of the Father: *“I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day”* (Jn 6:38-40).

Indeed, Jesus instituted bishops, priests, and deacons for this very purpose and He acts through them to bring about the will of the Father. If an ordained man acts on his own will contrary to the will of the Father and contrary to the mission of Jesus, he simply acts on his own. Likewise, if he acts on his own authority and not the authority that the Father gave to Jesus and Jesus delegated to the Church, he again acts only by his own authority. But if the cleric acts so as to participate in Jesus' priesthood in fulfillment of the Father's will and with the authority entrusted to the Church, this brings out the many and varied graces that God showers on His people, especially through the sacraments, to reconcile a fallen and sinful humanity with its Creator. In doing so a mere man continues Jesus' work until the end of time and Jesus works through that mere man.

- Fr Booth