

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>/March 4<sup>th</sup> 2018: Third Sunday of Lent**



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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 Crawford Mabee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 11<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bessie K. Lawrence from March 18<sup>th</sup> until March 24<sup>h</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.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** for 2017 have been mailed.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> it will be at 2:30 p.m.) followed by a Lenten potluck meal. We will also have confessions following Stations.

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

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection next weekend for the Burse Club. The Burse Club helps fund the education of our seminarians.

**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 fourth Sunday of Lent, we will collect toiletries such as bar soap, disposable razors, shave cream, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. No mouthwash or hand sanitizer, please.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** begins next Sunday morning, so turn your clocks forward.

**HOMECOMING LASAGNA DINNER:** Many thanks to those who helped with our Lasagna Dinner.

**ST ELIAS ANNUAL LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL:** The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival will be Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. A wide variety of traditional Lebanese entrees and desserts will be sold. Admission is free. For more details see [www.stelias.org/festival.htm](http://www.stelias.org/festival.htm)

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

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection for the weekend of February 18<sup>th</sup> was \$3093, \$270 was collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$697 was donated to the Black and Indian Missions. Last weekend the collection was \$3447 and the Preservation Fund contributions totaled \$140. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sun, Mar 4:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Ryan Frazier (by the Rumore Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Baby Cheney (by the Gagnons) – <i>Mass in Tuscaloosa</i>
Mon, Mar 5	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Elizabeth Walsh (by the Agnews)
Tues, Mar 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Joseph M. Walsh (by the Agnews)
Wed, Mar 7:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Christine Cover (by James Cover)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Frances Thompson (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Thur, Mar 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Larry & Faye Nichols (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
Fri, Mar 9:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Christine Cover (by James Cover)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Paul & Parma Boyle (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
Sat, Mar 10:	4:00 p.m.	† John Woodley (by the Dinans)
Sun, Mar 11:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Joseph Mistretta (by Alan & Pam Olson)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Bishop David Foley, 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. Fourth Sunday of Lent	2Chr 36:14-16,19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	2Chr 36:14-16,19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15

## *The Sacraments: Holy Orders*

It is no secret that there is a vocations crisis in the Church. Some dioceses have not tasted it yet, some are hanging in there, while others have had to close and consolidate parishes. Yes, we have had to close parishes, such as St Anthony's, St Alice's, St Augustine's, St Catherine's, St Margaret's, St Bernard's, and St Theresa's here in the Birmingham area, but it was not for a lack of priests. Our experience regarding the closing and consolidation of parishes has been because of a lack of parishioners. Over the course of time people move away from one part of town to another resulting in the growth of some parishes and the demise of others.

However, given the inevitability of priestly retirement and death, we will need to ordain an additional 12-15 men by 2026 than what we currently have in the seminarian pipeline or import that many priests from places like India if we are to hold our own. Otherwise, parish closure and consolidation is a reality that lies ahead in our near future.

Some think that having married priests is the answer, but it truly is not a viable solution for multiple reasons, the most important reason being the fact that there isn't a substantial cadre of men waiting around to enter the seminary lamenting that they want to be a priest and to be married as well. And of course some people think that ordaining women will solve the priestly vocations problem. Even if the Church actually had the authority to ordain women – it infallibly has no such authority – this would not be the answer. For whatever reason, protestant denominations that have ordained women have seen a more rapid decline in the number of their clergy than those that have not done so.

Others see permanent deacons as an answer to the priest shortage. As good and wonderful as our deacons are, they are restricted in what they can do: sacramentally, deacons can baptize and marry while they can also bless and preach. They cannot offer Mass, they cannot hear confessions, and they cannot anoint the sick, all of which require a priest or a bishop. Under most circumstances, only a bishop can confirm (for just reasons a priest can be delegated by the bishop to confirm or he can confirm under specific conditions) while ordination is firmly restricted to bishops. There never has been a shortage of bishops and recently we have more and more deacons, but what is at stake in any priest shortage is the loss of the people's access to confession, anointing of the sick, and the Eucharist.

The Second Vatican Council imagined that reinstating permanent deacons, a practice that had fallen by the wayside over the centuries, would address the priest shortage in places like Africa and Asia that have suffered from a shortage of priests for centuries. It might have made sense at a certain level, such as lightening the load on overburdened priests, but at the root of things, a deacon's being able to baptize and marry is not as unique as a priest's ability to hear confessions, anoint, and offer Mass. In the strictest sense, marriage and baptism can be done by laymen in the true absence of a deacon, priest, or bishop. It is certainly the strong preference of the Church that ordained men celebrate the sacraments of baptism and matrimony, but laymen can validly marry and baptize. What the permanent deacon truly brings to the table is being able to lighten the load on priests, which is only a partial answer to a priest shortage.

Another way of looking at it would be that a profound priest shortage more or less limits the Church to the same sacraments that the protestants validly celebrate whether or not they acknowledge the existence of any sacraments. For example, Baptists deny the existence of all seven sacraments but nonetheless they validly baptize people and when both husband and wife are baptized they validly perform the sacrament of matrimony. On the other end of the spectrum, the Anglicans say they have all seven sacraments, but since they abandoned the key ingredient to ordaining men to the priesthood, apostolic succession, they lack a true priesthood and therefore lack the sacraments of anointing, confession, confirmation, ordination, and the Eucharist. In other words, a profound shortage of priests does not spell the demise of the Church but represents a spiritual impoverishment that would be best to avoid.

- Fr Booth