

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 10th/March 11th 2018: Fourth Sunday of Lent



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
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 Crawford Mabee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 11th to March 17th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bessie K. Lawrence from March 18th until March 24^h.

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.

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 30th it will be at 2:30 p.m.) followed by a Lenten potluck meal. We will also have confessions following Stations.

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

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

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.

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 fifth Sunday of Lent, we will collect dried goods such as rice, beans, peas, lentils, pasta, Parmesan cheese, etc.

ST ELIAS ANNUAL LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL: The 20th annual Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival will be Friday, April 13th and Saturday, April 14th 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

SEMINARY COME-AND-SEE: The diocese is offering a Seminary Weekend for men 16-25 years of age from April 13th to April 15th. Father Altonji, Assistant Vocations Director, will travel with the men to the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, where they will experience seminary life, and attend the Diaconate Ordination of Justin Ward. Bishop Baker, Father Rick, and all of our diocesan seminarians will also be at the seminary that weekend. This would be a great opportunity for men who are discerning Priesthood to talk with Bishop Baker, our Priests in the Vocations Office, and our seminarians about Priesthood and seminary life, as well as witness a diaconate ordination. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. The registration deadline is March 28th.

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 \$5926 and \$1160 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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)
Mon, Mar 12 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jeff & Catherine Hahn (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
Tues, Mar 13: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Micky Zielinski (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
Wed, Mar 14: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Jeff & Catherine Hahn (by Andrew Rumore)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mrs. Thornton (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Mar 15: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mrs. Morin (by the Hahn Family)
Fri, Mar 16: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Sarah Cover (by James Cover)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Beth Brouillette (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
Sat, Mar 17: 4:00 p.m. † Kathryn Burks-Woodley (by the Dinans)
Sun, Mar 18: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Jimenez Family (by Mary Donellan)

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. Fifth Sunday of Lent	Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, Jn 12:20-33
9:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent	Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, Jn 12:20-33
10:45 a.m. Passion Sunday	Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59

The Sacraments: Holy Orders

Last week Pope Francis stated that the Mass should be free, free in the sense that no one should be charged money for having a Mass offered for a loved one. His point on this seems to be that the Mass does not belong to a specific priest or to all priests as a group, but to Jesus. This is true, since it is Jesus Who truly says *“this is My Body... This is My Blood,”* not the priest in and of himself: yes, the priest speaks the words, but the words are uniquely of and by Jesus Himself. After all, a priest does not and cannot offer his own body and his own blood in the sacrifice of the Mass. Thus, if the priest does not own a specific offering of the Mass, it cannot be bought or possessed by anyone else either.

Some might see the Mass stipend as a form of simony, the buying or selling of spiritual goods, which is named after Simon Magus who tried to buy the ability to confer the Holy Spirit on others from the Apostle Peter. *“When Simon saw that the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, ‘Give me this power too, so that anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘May your money perish with you, because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money’”* (Acts 8:18-20). Indeed, the most classic form of simony was the purchase of the office of bishop or archbishop, which would be the very thing that Simon Magus attempted to buy from St Peter, the ability to bestow the Holy Spirit on others through the laying on of hands.

Then why does the Church allow parishes to charge for having a Mass offered for someone who is either among the living or the dead? Isn't this the purchase of the Mass, isn't this the purchase of something spiritual? Isn't this exactly what Jesus condemned when He cleansed the Temple of the moneychangers and those selling various sacrificial animals? Not exactly. The Mass intention represents the specific individual or individuals that the priest remembers at the Mass, but the spiritual benefit is not for that individual or those individuals alone. Everyone present at the Mass, everyone remembered by anyone present at the Mass, and especially everyone who worthily receives the Eucharist at the Mass are beneficiaries of that Mass.

Again, why does the Church allow parishes to charge for having a Mass offered for someone who is either among the living or the dead? It is because of simple human nature. Our diocese allows a parish to charge as much as \$10 for a Mass stipend only because this represents a non-trivial but quite affordable amount of money. If everyone could request a Mass intention totally free of charge, it is not too difficult to imagine someone asking for 1,000 or even 1,000,000 Masses to be said for their deceased mother. With someone hogging the Mass intentions because they are free, the availability for others to have Masses offered would be essentially eliminated. Thus, the Mass stipend moderates human nature. Likewise, the Mass stipend does not correspond to what the merchants were doing in the Temple: they were selling animals at grossly inflated prices that many people could not hope to afford and they had a total monopoly on the only animals that would be acceptable for sacrifice. The original intention of God was that the one requesting a sacrifice under the Old Testament would bring his own animal or otherwise obtain one to be offered, which certainly cost them something, the cost being an aspect of the sacrifice. Jesus objected to the profiteering and corruption of the merchants in the Temple taking advantage of the people in God's name, not that it cost them an animal.

Pope Francis, however, is probably not objecting to the American practice of offering a token \$5 to \$10 as a Mass stipend. In some parts of the world, the priest explicitly charges much higher prices for the Mass and other sacraments. For example, some priests will charge the equivalent of several hundred dollars for a baptism. This practice tends to happen in countries that are quite poor, such that significant financial barriers are erected to receiving the sacraments. This clearly is an abuse. However, in these same parts of the world, sometimes the priest's only financial compensation is through charging the people for the sacraments, so there would be a great temptation on the part of some priests to take advantage of the people they were ordained to serve.

- Fr Booth