

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 17th/March 18th 2018: Fifth Sunday of Lent (English)

Passion Sunday (Latin)



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 Bessie K. Lawrence, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 18th to March 24th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Walter Roberts from April 8th until April 14th.

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.

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.

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 Palm Sunday, we will collect beverage items such as coffee, tea bags, instant tea, powdered milk, lemonade mix, Gatorade mix, 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.

2018 HIGH MASS DATES: 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 \$3698, \$65 was collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$771 was given for the Burse Club. Many thanks for your generosity.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- Holy Thursday: 5:00 p.m. Latin Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 p.m. English Mass of the Lord's Supper, adoration until 9:00 p.m.
- Good Friday: 1:30 p.m. Confessions until 2:25 p.m.
2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (No Potluck)
3:00 p.m. Latin Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
6:00 p.m. Confessions until 6:45 p.m.
7:00 p.m. English Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
- Holy Saturday: 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass in English
- Easter Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Easter Mass in English (No Coffee & Donuts)
10:45 a.m. Easter High Mass in Latin

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

- 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)
- Mon, Mar 19 *8:30 a.m. † Hal Phillips (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
- Tues, Mar 20: *8:30 a.m. † Joe Alfano (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
- Wed, Mar 21: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Charlotte Moy and Family (by James Cover)
*8:30 a.m. † Sammy Epperson (by Rita and Deacon Terry Rumore)
- Thur, Mar 22: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Celia Sampredo (by the Sampredo Family)
- Fri, Mar 23: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Jay and Mary-Caroline Benson (by James Cover)
*8:30 a.m. Private Intention
- Sat, Mar 24: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Gloria Archambault (by Lynn Bryant)
- Sun, Mar 25: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Wendy Donellan (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. Palm Sunday Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mk 14:1-15:47
9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mk 14:1-15:47
10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Phil 2:5-11, J Mt 26:36-27:60

The Sacraments: The Eucharist

It is now time to consider the last of the seven sacraments, the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the most solemn of the sacraments and, paradoxically, at the same time it is the most commonly celebrated. As was noted some time ago, all of the sacraments convey grace in one way or another on those that are appropriately disposed and eligible to receive those graces. With the exception of baptism and confession, the other five sacraments require the recipient to be in a state of grace: baptism creates the reality of being in a state of grace and confession reestablishes a state of grace when one repents of their mortal sins. Barring martyrdom and other special circumstances, being in a state of grace is basically impossible without the sacrament of baptism. Returning to a state of grace ordinarily requires the sacrament of confession. So ordination, matrimony, confirmation, anointing of the sick, and the Eucharist require prior reception of baptism and, in most circumstances, presume a recent confession. Ordination, matrimony, anointing of the sick, and confirmation cannot be received fruitfully in a state of mortal sin. In fact, it is a mortal sin to receive ordination, matrimony, anointing of the sick, or confirmation when in a state of mortal sin. It is the sin of sacrilege.

Reception of Communion when in a state of mortal sin is also a sacrilege, but it goes deeper than that. Inappropriate reception of the Body or Blood of Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist has even more dire potential consequences. St Paul warns the people of Corinth, and us as well, saying “*whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying*” (1Cor 11:27-30). Physical illness and death, along with the spiritual consequences of sacrilege, are indeed possible for unworthy reception of the Eucharist.

Why? What makes unworthy reception of the Eucharist different than say unworthy reception of confirmation or matrimony? Unworthy reception of ordination, matrimony, anointing of the sick, or confirmation compounds the sinful state of the recipient and prevents the graces of the sacrament from being received (if one was otherwise properly disposed and eligible to receive that sacrament, a good subsequent confession makes those graces present). In the case of reception of the Eucharist, however, one infallibly receives Jesus – Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity – since He is truly present in every Host and every fragment of a Host, in the Precious Blood and every droplet of the Precious Blood, whether or not the recipient is or is not in a state of grace. Jesus is physically present under the appearances of bread and wine so that the physical reception of the Eucharist is a physical reception of Jesus irrespective of whether or not one is properly disposed. After all, Jesus said “*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him*” (Jn 6:54-56). In other words, unworthy reception of confirmation or matrimony, for example, is a moral and spiritual rejection of the graces that Jesus offers us in these sacraments, but unworthy reception of the Eucharist is a moral, spiritual, and physical rejection of Jesus Himself. It is not as if Jesus changes the Eucharist back into bread and wine for the sake of the morally unworthy. Rather He expects us to change, He expects us to be reconciled to Him before we receive Him. Jesus does not protect Himself from being received unworthily in the Eucharist anymore than He kept Himself from being scourged and crucified on Good Friday.

As stated earlier, the Eucharist is the most solemn but also most frequently celebrated sacrament. The frequent reception of the Eucharist can, because of human weakness, lead to a casual sense of familiarity or even a sense carelessness. Therefore we must always be careful to discern whether or not we ought to go to confession before receiving. In years past, it was unthinkable to receive Jesus without first going to confession. Just as “*Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Heb 13:8) so is the Eucharist the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- Fr Booth