

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

June 23rd/June 24th 2018: Nativity of St John the Baptist



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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**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 Sam Montalbano, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from June 24th to June 30th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of James Mickel from July 1st until July 7th.

PLEASE NOTE: Please make all checks out to Blessed Sacrament, Blessed Sacrament Church, or words to that effect. This applies to second collections, Mass cards, religious goods, etc.

SECOND COLLECTION: This Sunday there will be a second collection for the Mission Cooperative Appeal. This collection brings much needed help to specific dioceses and ministries in India, Cameroon, and Malaysia.

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

AVILA SUMMIT: The 1st annual Avila Summit will be held July 13-15th at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville and will feature keynote presentations by Cardinal Francis Arinze and Fr. Cassian Folsom. Other speakers include Dan Burke, Anthony Lilles, Pia de Solenni, and Christopher Carstens. This conference will focus on the saving power of liturgy and the interior life in our mission to restore, transform, and animate the culture. Receive 50% of your ticket price using code AL2018. Space limited to just 250 attendees. Register now or get more information at SpiritualDirection.com/Summit2018.

FACEBOOK: ‘Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Birmingham, AL’ is the parish official Facebook page. If you have not joined, please do so that you can keep up with what is happening in the parish. It’s a wonderful way to communicate with other parishioners. It is a closed group so the privacy is secure.

2018 HIGH MASS DATES: Sunday, July 8th (Seventh Sunday After Pentecost), 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.).

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Justin Ward, Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They are seeking to fill the following positions: Application Analyst (Religious Catalogue), Customer Service Representative (Religious Catalogue), Marketing Specialist, Web Developer, Viewer Services Representative, On-Air Promotions Producer/Editor, Broadcast Traffic Assistant, IT Support Technician. Information on job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$5035 and \$290 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, June 23:	4:00 p.m.	Friar Leticio, pjc
Sun, June 24:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Richard Juneau (by John Minjares)
Mon, June 25	*8:30 a.m.	† Edmund Sampedro (by the Sampedro Family)
Tues, June 26:	*8:30 a.m.	† Dorothy Sampedro (by the Sampedro Family)
Wed, June 27:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Joseph Fernandes (by the Fernandes Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Joshua Cross (by James & Nida Hammond)
Thur, June 28:	*8:30 a.m.	† Ruth Kittrel Jetmundsen (by James & Nida Hammond)
Fri, June 29:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Laura Minjares (by John Minjares)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Jonathan Howell (by Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore)
Sat, June 30:	4:00 p.m.	Friar Leticio, pjc
Sun, July 1:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlotte & Terry Rumore, Jr. (by Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Fr Gerald Holloway, Friar Leticio pjc, Vinita Kelly, Penny Vaughn, Patricia Durward, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Pete Searcy, Sylvia McCarrick, William Scroggins, 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, Kay Junk, Liz Pate, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, 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.	13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 1:13-15,2:23-24, 2Cor 8:7,9,13-15, Mk 5:21-43
9:00 a.m.	13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 1:13-15,2:23-24, 2Cor 8:7,9,13-15, Mk 5:21-43
10:45 a.m.	Most Precious Blood of Jesus	Heb 9:11-15, Jn 19:30-35

God, No Fairy Tale

The materialism – understood as the belief that the world consists strictly of things that can be sensed and measured only – that was beginning to take root some 150-200 years ago has pretty much become the standard world view for most people today. One of the ironies of this is that the more educated one tends to be today, the more likely they are to reject the existence of things that are beyond our senses and beyond our ability to measure. In times past, however, it would have been just the opposite: the uneducated would have thought of the world in terms of things that can be touched and seen while the more highly educated would have known that the world consisted of things seen and unseen, measurable and unmeasurable. This is so because higher education was at one time based on philosophy: one took philosophy before studying the topics specific to being a lawyer, a scientist, a doctor, a teacher, etc. The title PhD, which stands for doctor of philosophy, is a vestige of what higher education once was. Today, it is pretty much only the Catholic clergy that study philosophy before moving on to specialized studies, in this case theology.

If one studied philosophy, they would be taught, among other things, logic (how to reason), esthetics (how to recognize and appreciate beauty), and ethics (how to discern moral good from evil). Lacking a philosophical foundation in our education today it should be no surprise that we turn to emotion more than reason, it should be no surprise that so much of what we create has become much less than beautiful, and it should be no surprise that we have essentially lost our moral compass. In any case, those trained in philosophy would have known that immaterial things exist that are beyond our senses, such as truth, beauty, and goodness. Indeed, truth truly exists even though you can't touch it, beauty exists in and of itself without the physical existence of someone or something beautiful, and goodness exists even though you can't take its temperature.

Additionally, the existence of angels and demons becomes inconceivable for someone who believes that everything is made up of material substance. Thus, the temptation of Adam and Eve, Zechariah's encounter with Gabriel announcing the conception of John the Baptist in the barren womb of Elizabeth, Gabriel announcing the incarnation of Jesus to the Virgin Mary, and Satan's temptation of Jesus in the desert all become imaginary events in the minds of many today or they are evidence of mental illness. To the man who believes in materialism the very existence of God becomes more of a fairytale than the truth while faith becomes something only the uneducated and ignorant would embrace.

Oddly, those who deny the existence of the spiritual realm have their own fairytales. They have the fairytale that the universe came into being all by itself. But are they any more likely to accept a child's explanation that the vase fell all by itself or that the cookies disappeared all by themselves? They have the fairytale that life came to be in much the same way, that at one moment in time there were no living creatures and then life somehow just came to be. Life, even at its most simple level, is so complex that surely it makes sense that life just sort of happened by accident. They have the fairytale that once life came into existence such that random, disordered, and inanimate processes somehow produced increasingly complex and increasingly ordered creatures. Surely as children their homework just did itself and their rooms were self-organizing.

In any case, this exclusive emphasis on the material world has made having faith that much more difficult and has made evangelizing the modern pagan a greater challenge. The early Church had to convert people who rightly believed in an unseen spiritual realm but who needed to be corrected on the nature of God, that there is but one God, that the myriad of spiritual beings we call angels were not gods and were all created good but some chose to reject the good, and so forth. Much of the ancient pagan's beliefs were based on myths and fairytales about the spiritual world while the modern pagan has his own fairytales about how the world and life are merely random and accidental. Marx, a true believer in materialism, called religion the opiate of the masses. Liberated from the 'tyranny' of faith in a world wrongly perceived to be random and accidental, is it any wonder why we have a true drug, a true opiate problem? Indeed, until we acknowledge the truth of the spiritual nature of the world and especially of man, life will simply become more random and accidental.

- Fr Booth