

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 28th/July 29th 2018: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (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 Webb Dismukes, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 29th to August 4th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen Schauer from August 5th until August 11th.

FIRST FRIDAY: For First Friday on August 3rd, we will have Adoration and Benediction following the 8:30 a.m. English Mass.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on August 4th. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

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

FATHER JAMES E. COYLE MEMORIAL MASS: Let us remember a holy priest killed in the line of duty. A memorial Mass will be offered on Friday, August 10th at 12:10 p.m. at St Paul's. Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Fr Coyle.

HOMESCHOOL MASS: All Catholic Homeschoolers from the Diocese of Birmingham are invited to a Beginning of the Year Mass at the Cathedral of St Paul. Mark your calendars for the Mass to be celebrated on Thursday, September 6th at 10:00 a.m. Reception to follow; please bring a dish to share. Come join other Catholic homeschoolers to begin the school year in prayer and fellowship. For more information, please contact Susan Fay at staabhm@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION: Bishop Baker will offer the sacrament of Confirmation at the 10:45 a.m. High Mass on Sunday, December 16th. If you have a child to be confirmed, please provide a copy of their baptismal certificate to Fr Booth. If you are not members of Blessed Sacrament, you must obtain the permission of your pastor for your child to receive confirmation here.

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: 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, Confirmation), 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: Live Show Operator (part-time), Application Analyst (Religious Catalogue), Customer Service Representative (Religious Catalogue), On-Air Promotions Producer/Editor, Marketing Specialist, Assistant News Editor (NCR), Web Developer, Viewer Services Representative. Job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$3709 and \$340 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, July 28: 4:00 p.m. † Thellis Williamson (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, July 29: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, July 30 *8:30 a.m. † Carmen Juneau (by the Juneau Family)
Tues, July 31: *8:30 a.m. † Charles Accardo (by the Juneau Family)
Wed, Aug 1: *7:00 a.m. † Jim Beebe (by Alan and Pam Olson)
*8:30 a.m. † Nancy Davies (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Thur, Aug 2: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for James Thompson (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Fri, Aug 3: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Monica Duvall (by the Duryea Family)
*8:30 a.m. Private Intention
Sat, Aug 4: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Rumore Family (by the Duryea Family)
4:00 p.m. † Joe Shirley (by Marian Dinan)
Sun, Aug 5: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charles & Allison Rumore (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jacob Baker, Virginia Files, Gerry McCahan, Danny Rohling, 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, 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. Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exo 16:2-4,12-15, Eph 4:17,20-24, Jn 6:24-35
9:00 a.m. Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Exo 16:2-4,12-15, Eph 4:17,20-24, Jn 6:24-35
10:45 a.m. Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 1Cor 15:1-10, Mk 7:31-37

God, The Lawgiver

One might argue that anything that moves or has been moving was ultimately set in motion by the Big Bang. Indeed, the world as we know it has been moving ever since the Big Bang happened between 13 and 15 billion years ago. Atoms, which began to form perhaps 500,000 years after the Big Bang, have been moving because of the energy first imparted by this event and continue to move today primarily because of the force of gravity, or more precisely, we can say that gravity governs the motion of most things. A billion years after the Big Bang, gravity begins to make atoms coalesce into planets, stars, and galaxies: moons orbit planets because of gravity, planets, asteroids, and comets orbit stars because of gravity, stars form into galaxies because of gravity, and so forth. Thus, it would seem that there is no need for an Unmoved Mover such as God to set the world in motion. Motion is a consequence of the forces of nature.

Yes, and no. One question that might be asked is why does energy put matter in motion? To the scientist, the answer to this question is obvious: it just does. Or he might say that the energy of something in motion is equal to one half of its mass multiplied by its velocity squared. But why is it half of the mass and not all of it? He'd say that the half comes from the integration of the formula for momentum, which is mass times velocity, with respect to time. At some point, however, you run out of the ability to answer the question of why. Sooner or later the answer becomes 'it just does.'

The same type of questions can be asked of gravity. Why does gravity pull objects toward one another? Because, as Newton discovered, the force of gravity is proportional to the product of the masses of the objects divided by the distance between them squared. Why? Because Newton used the observed motion of the planets to derive his formula. But why does matter behave that way? Why does one object attract another? Sooner or later you get down to hand waving, or analogies, or simply because 'it just does.' Pointing to a formula to explain 'why' amounts to saying 'it just does.'

St Thomas Aquinas lived about 300 years before the age of scientific discovery, well before science went from being the observation of how things behaved to the mathematical quantification of how the world works. It was not until the 16th and 17th centuries when Galileo, Kepler, Newton, and others began to apply mathematics to science. Prior to that, science was generally more descriptive than quantitative, more observational than theoretical. Had St Thomas lived in the time of Isaac Newton (or even today) he more than likely would have maintained his insistence that motion points to an unmoved mover. In fact, he would have seen that the equations Newton and others derived to describe the workings of the universe would have been further evidence of God.

Why does matter behave a certain way? Why does gravity act a certain way? Why do chemicals react like they do? Why do physics and chemistry on earth exactly match the physics and chemistry on Jupiter or in any other galaxy? More fundamentally, why does math function the same way everywhere in the universe, why isn't there a unique math for earth and a different math for anywhere else? Underlying each one of these questions, no matter how deeply one plunges into the mathematics and theories of science, lurks the pesky answer of 'it just does.' That there are mathematical formulas that describe how the universe works points to something about the universe, which cannot be attributed to mere chance, above and beyond the universe itself. That mathematics itself is ordered, predictable, precise, expressible, and universal – whether or not the type of math has a real world application or not – also tells us something about the universe.

That there are laws of physics suggests that something or someone prescribed those laws. That there are laws of chemistry implies the exact same thing. So does the very nature of mathematics. Where there is a law there logically must be a lawgiver. After all, traffic signs just don't sprout and grow all by themselves and speed limits are not self-determining. The only other conclusion besides the existence of a lawgiver boils down to the 'it just does' or 'it just is' line of reasoning. Thus, existence implies a creator, motion implies a mover, and the laws of mathematics and science imply a lawgiver. It is not unreasonable that the creator, the mover, and lawgiver are God. Otherwise, we are left with the very unsatisfying answer of 'it just does' or 'it just is.'

- Fr Booth