

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**August 11<sup>th</sup>/August 12<sup>th</sup> 2018: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Latin)**



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

**E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)  
Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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 Beverly Grisham, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 12<sup>th</sup> to August 18<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Helen Von Hagel from August 19<sup>th</sup> until August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**REST IN PEACE:** Gerry Ann McCahan passed away on August 8<sup>th</sup> and her funeral Mass will be at Our Lady of Sorrows at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**KOC MEETING:** The Knights of Columbus will have their regular monthly meeting this Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:** Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will have Masses in English on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. There will be a Low Latin Mass at 7:00 a.m. and Latin High Mass on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 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.

**MOTHER'S MORNING WITH MARY:** Mothers are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Adoration begins at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed benediction at 9:10 a.m., and concluding with Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:staabhm@gmail.com)

**VOCATION RETREAT:** The cloistered Dominican nuns of the Monastery of St Jude in Marbury, Alabama are inviting single Catholic women, high school juniors through age 27, who are interested in the contemplative life to a discernment retreat from October 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Is Jesus drawing you to give yourself to Him through a common life of liturgical and personal prayer, study and daily work, pondering the Word in your heart in union with Mary so that it may bear fruit for God and souls? Learn more at [MarburyDominicanNuns.org](http://MarburyDominicanNuns.org)

**CONFIRMATION:** Bishop Baker will offer the sacrament of Confirmation at the 10:45 a.m. High Mass on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**2018 HIGH MASS DATES:** 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, Confirmation), Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.).

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They seek to fill the following positions: Volunteer Support Assistant, Security Officer (night-shift), IT Support Technician, Web Developer, Viewer Services Representative, Live Show Operator (part-time), Customer Service Representative, Marketing Specialist, Assistant News Editor, Producer/Editor, Non-Linear Editor. Job requirements can be found at [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com).

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection for last weekend was \$5229 and \$6215 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Aug 11: 4:00 p.m. † Mother Mary Gabriel Long, SsEW (by Julia Bryant)  
Sun, Aug 12: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Nathan Gagnon (by the Hahn Family)  
Mon, Aug 13 \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Rebekah Wright (by the Hahn Family)  
Tues, Aug 14: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Nathan Wright, Jr. (by the Hahn Family)  
6:00 p.m. Special Intention for Catherine Runge (by Valori Clemons)  
Wed, Aug 15: 7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Piroch, Jr. (by the Sampedros)  
8:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
6:00 p.m. Special Intention for Allison Rumore (by the Hahn Family)  
Thur, Aug 16: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Margaret Taylor (by the Sampedros)  
Fri, Aug 17: \*7:00 a.m. † Mary Cooper (by Lori Donellan)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Freddie Zimmer (by Scott Donellan)  
Sat, Aug 18: 9:15 a.m. † Gerry Ann McCahan (by the Gagnon Family)  
4:00 p.m. † Bishop Fisher (by Helen Brandley)  
Sun, Aug 19: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for John Minjares, Sr. (by John Minjares, Jr.)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Jacob Baker, Virginia Files, 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. Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Prov 9:1-6, Eph 5:15-20, Jn 6:51-58
9:00 a.m. Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Prov 9:1-6, Eph 5:15-20, Jn 6:51-58
10:45 a.m. Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Gal 3:16-22, Lk 17:11-19

## *God, The Necessary*

St Thomas Aquinas formulated five arguments that strongly suggest but not rigorously prove the existence of God. So far we have seen that creation requires a creator, and since things don't create themselves, an uncreated Creator must therefore exist. We understand that God is the uncreated Creator. Likewise, if something is in motion, something or someone must have put it motion. Since things don't move themselves, a mover must exist and there must have been an original mover to set the world in motion. This unmoved Mover is understood to be God. Likewise, there are degrees of perfection where every form of true perfection is understood to be an aspect of goodness. If there are degrees of perfection there must be a standard of perfection that exists independent of the things measured, and since perfection is absolute, that perfect standard of perfection must also be eternal. We understand that only God can fulfill the reality of the eternal standard of perfection. Another argument that St Thomas might have formulated had he lived in the age of science would be derived from the existence of unchanging universal laws of mathematics and science. That laws do not create themselves implies there is an unchanging and universal Lawgiver that can be understood as God.

Aquinas formulated a fourth argument suggesting the existence of God that hinges on the difference between that which is necessary and that which is not necessary. Another way of saying this is that the existence of something is contingent, that it depends upon something else. A butterfly is contingent on the existence of the corresponding caterpillar, which is contingent upon a caterpillar egg, which is contingent on butterfly parents, and so on. If those two butterflies don't meet, that egg is not laid, that caterpillar is not hatched, and that caterpillar does not transform into that butterfly. That butterfly, that caterpillar, and that egg are all contingent on those parental butterflies. Those parental butterflies are themselves contingent upon their corresponding caterpillars, eggs, and butterfly parents.

Or we can easily see how our own human lives are contingent. Our parents had to meet, they had to date, they had to get married, and so on. If anything in that chain of events does not happen, well, we don't happen. It is not as if we could will ourselves into existence any more than butterflies can. So we can see a series of contingent events happening with our parents, our grandparents, or great grandparents, and so on all the back to Adam and Eve. If there were only Adam but no Eve or if there were Eve but no Adam, then there would have been no human race. Or, if Adam and Eve had stopped having children after Cain and Abel, that would be it. Even though the Bible does not mention them, but we know that Adam and Eve must have had daughters.

Thus, we can say that Adam and Eve were necessary for us to exist, and it was necessary for them to have both sons and daughters. We can say the same for the first butterflies. They had to be male and female and they must have had multiple offspring of both genders. All butterflies depend on the previous existence of those first two butterflies and our existence depends on the existence of Adam and Eve. But was Adam or Eve or either butterfly necessary in and of themselves? Yes, they are necessary for future offspring, but does that mean that the universe had to have Adam and Eve and two mating butterflies in order to exist?

The answer is no. This should be obvious because the universe existed before butterflies and people existed. Which brings us to the fundamental question of necessary existence: from a secular view, was the Big Bang necessary of itself, or from a theological perspective, was God required to say "*Let there be light*"? Yes, that event is necessary for the existence of everything we can touch and see, but was the creation event necessary? The answer from both a theological and from a secular perspective is no.

The secular atheist will accept the idea that the universe just randomly happened and this happening was unnecessary of itself. But as we have seen, every future thing relies upon something necessary that preexists it, so how can the universe go from nothingness to existence without something necessary that preexisted the universe? The atheist answer is the preexistence of time and the laws of probability, neither of which exist prior to the existence of the universe! As Christians, we understand that God preexisted the universe and He alone is necessary in and of Himself.

- Fr Booth