

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*August 18th/August 19th 2018: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Latin)*



**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 Helen Von Hagel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 19th to August 25th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Glenn L. Varnell from August 26th until September 1st.

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.

COAT DRIVE: The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Coat Drive for the Catholic Center of Concern beginning next Sunday, August 25th through Sunday September 30th. The collection point is at the rear of the Church by the stairs.

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

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 19th to the 21st. 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

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.

2018 HIGH MASS DATES: 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 seek to fill the following positions: Groundskeeper, Volunteer Support Assistant, Security Officer (night-shift), IT Support Technician, Web Developer, Producer/Editor, Viewer Services Representative, Customer Service Representative (Religious Catalogue), Non-Linear Editor. Job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4400 and \$465 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

- 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.)
- Mon, Aug 20 *8:30 a.m. † Mary Grace Reinhardt (the Pohorelsky Family)
- Tues, Aug 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Carmody Family (by the Pohorelsky Family)
- Wed, Aug 22: *7:00 a.m. Private Intention
*8:30 a.m. Private Intention
- Thur, Aug 23: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Allison Rumore (by the Pohorelsky Family)
- Fri, Aug 24: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Tricia Flavin (by the Pohorelsky Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Owen Thompson (by the Pohorelsky Family)
- Sat, Aug 25: 4:00 p.m. † Mary Holt (by the Sampedro Family)
- Sun, Aug 26: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Pope Francis (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. Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Josh 24:1-2,15-18, Eph 5:21-32, Jn 6:60-69
9:00 a.m. Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Josh 24:1-2,15-18, Eph 5:21-32, Jn 6:60-69
10:45 a.m. Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Gal 5:16-24, Mt 6:24-33

God, The Purposeful

The fifth way that St Thomas Aquinas formulated that God could be known from nature, without recourse to the Bible, involves the reality of purpose. If we look at a screwdriver, it has been designed to install screws. As my woodshop teacher in junior high school emphatically taught, that is what this tool is to be used for. Period. A screwdriver was never to be used as a pry bar. A screwdriver was never to be used as a chisel. A screwdriver was never to be used as a punch. His point was that there is a tool for every purpose and a purpose for every tool. To use a tool contrary to its purpose was not only unsafe but also it caused a disruption in the 'force' that no woodshop Jedi should tolerate.

We could say that a screwdriver has a purpose by design. It was designed to engage the head of a slotted or philips head screw so that the screw can be installed or removed by a twisting motion. It was not designed to pry things apart or to be hammered on the end of the handle. While in this day and age of lawsuits and liabilities it is likely that the tool designer takes into account how the screwdriver will actually be used as opposed to how it ought to be used, it nevertheless stands to reason that a screwdriver's very purpose is to drive screws.

We can also say that the leaves on a tree have a purpose. That purpose is to sustain the tree by acting as its lungs and as its source of energy by converting sunlight into sugar that the tree can use for food. The purpose of a flower is for the sake of reproduction. It produces pollen and/or receives pollen so that seeds or seed-bearing fruit can be produced. The beauty of leaves in the fall and the beauty of blooming flowers are of no account biologically: that we find them beautiful is a benefit or a side effect, not a purpose. That flowers smell nice, usually, is also a benefit or a side effect, not a purpose. That their pollen causes many people to suffer is not a purpose either but an unfortunate consequence or side effect of our fallen world.

But how can a leaf or a flower have a purpose? Mankind has designated the purpose of a screwdriver, but how can an unintelligent creature such as a tree or a part of a tree have a purpose apart from someone having specified that purpose? It is not as if a tree or a plant decides what its various parts do any more than we can make our kidneys think or our livers pump blood. But we as creatures with intelligence and free will can determine the purpose of our actions and the purpose of the things we make, such as a screwdriver. Thus we can say that leaves, flowers, kidneys, etc. have their various purposes by their nature while our actions and creations have a purpose by our having made hopefully intelligent choices.

The existence of purpose for unintelligent things suggests that an intelligent agent specified their purpose and was able to choose how a leaf, a kidney, or a flower functions to fulfill that purpose. We can't do that with our internal organs nor can a tree or plant specify or change how its parts work, which implies that something, or more accurately, someone else gave purpose to those things. Since defining the purpose of something necessarily requires intelligence and free will, then someone much more powerful and much more intelligent than we are provided such things with their purpose. This suggests God as the purpose-giver.

The modern approach is to claim that the purpose of flowers, leaves, and kidneys evolved from more simple forms of life. Or many may say that DNA defines the purpose of such things. But that would be ascribing intelligence and free will to so-called natural selection or to DNA. If so, we could easily ask how natural selection and DNA got their purpose. How did unintelligent and random natural selection or unintelligent DNA do things that we ourselves cannot do?

Indeed, we can say that anything that has a purpose was given that purpose as much as it was created, as much as it was moved, as much as it follows specified laws of nature, and so on. However, we live in an age when many believe that purpose is determined by random chance and happenstance, so is it no wonder why many people struggle to find purpose and meaning in life. For those with faith, we know that God created us, and all that exists, for a purpose. Denying that God-given purpose leads to a meaningless and even brutish existence while embracing it leads to peace and happiness in this world and the world to come.

- Fr Booth