

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

September 1st/September 2nd 2018: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)

15th 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 John Schauer, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 2nd to September 8th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eugene Mason from September 9th until September 15th.

CONTACTING THE FRANCISCANS: the Franciscans of the Fraternity Poor of Jesus Christ can be contacted at (205) 578-2988, on facepage @poorofjesuschristalabama, and via e-mail at franciscanspjcalabama@gmail.com

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

FIRST FRIDAY: For First Friday on September 7th, we will have Adoration and Benediction following the 8:30 a.m. English Mass

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 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.

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

POTLUCK DINNER DANCE: We will have a covered dish dinner dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, September 29th following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to dine and dance.

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.).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They seek to fill the following positions: Security Officer (night-shift), IT Support Technician, Web Developer, Viewer Services Representative, Affiliate Coordinator, Producer/Editor, Non-Linear Editor, Administrative Assistant (National Catholic Register). Job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com.

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.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$6245 and \$575 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Sept 1:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Jim & Kay Deering (by Joseph Donellan)
	4:00 p.m.	Private Intention
Sun, Sept 2:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for the Pohorelsky Family (by the Juneau Family)
Mon, Sept 3	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Paul Pohorelsky (by the Fernandes Family)
Tues, Sept 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Margaret Hill (by the Fernandes Family)
Wed, Sept 5:	*7:00 a.m.	Intentions of the Confraternity of St Peter (by Mary Donellan)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Colafrancesco (by the Fernandes Family)
Thur, Sept 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Fri, Sept 7:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention (by Mary Donellan)
	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Sat, Sept 8:	4:00 p.m.	† Laura Von Hagel (by Linda Miller)
Sun, Sept 9:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Gerry Ann McCahan (by the Juneau Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially David Bull, Sam Pilato, Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, Jacob Baker, Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, 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, 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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mk 7:31-37
9:00 a.m. Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mk 7:31-37
10:45 a.m. 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11

I Think, Therefore I Believe

Over the past few weeks we have covered philosophical arguments – not proofs, however – formulated by St Thomas Aquinas pointing to the existence of God. The value of such arguments won't be immediately obvious to someone if they have never struggled with whether or not God exists. To know that an intellectual argument can be made for God's existence liberates us from the all too common accusation that our faith is irrational. Arguments for God such as those made by St Thomas can also uncover the irrationality of those who accuse us of being irrational for believing. His arguments stand on solid rational principles and cannot be disproven outright while arguments against God's existence are founded on shaky ground. Yes, someone might not find the argument of the Unmoved Mover compelling, but that does not disprove it. It is hardly irrational to insist that motion requires a mover, yet insisting that the motion of an inanimate object occurs spontaneously is perilously close to making a thoroughly irrational argument. Likewise, some of Thomas' arguments are not as readily grasped as others, but that does not disqualify or discredit them in the least. Calculus is not invalidated by the student that can't get their minds around math at that level of difficulty.

But even if a theologian could make an airtight proof of God's existence, one that carries the same level of certainty as two plus two is four, would people therefore believe? Yes, more people would probably believe if God's existence were as evident as two plus two, but some people would still choose to reject reality. The rejection of the obvious truth seems outlandish or perhaps evidence of a mental condition, but this happens more often than we might think. The International Flat Earth Society sounds like a tongue-in-cheek lampoon of modern science, but its members truly and sincerely believe the earth is flat and no scientific evidence to the contrary can convince them otherwise. Likewise, some people think that the moon landings were a total fraud foisted on the world by the government. They even claim that the deaths of the Apollo 1 astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Rodger Chaffee happened to silence one or all of them and to discourage others from becoming potential whistle blowers. I have met people who truly believe much of what is said in the 'Da Vinci Code' is hard historical fact. Actual historical facts and that the book can be found in the fiction aisle of the bookstore are unpersuasive to those who truly believe.

Seriously, people believe in a flat earth today? People really believe the moon landings were faked and that men were murdered as part of a cover-up conspiracy? Some actually think that the Vatican has a squad of albino monk assassins? Yep. People of faith can come across as irrational as the promoters of any conspiracy theory if we fail to understand that belief in God must involve our intellects. Blind faith, faith without an intellectual foundation, can be quite fragile and nearly impossible to share with others. Besides being unable to share their faith, those with blind faith can quite easily come across as loons. This is why St Peter exhorts us to "*sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame*" (1Pet 3:15-16). In other words, we are called to believe with both heart and mind.

It has to be both mind and heart. If the mind is left out of the equation, our faith can seem as well founded as a flat-earthier's beliefs. The difference is that belief in a flat earth is not rational at all, even though someone believes with all of their heart that modern science has been deceiving mankind all along, whereas belief in God's existence is rational and does not require mental gymnastics, elaborate conspiracies, denial of objective facts, or appeal to mere emotions to answer a challenge of what we believe. This is not to say, however, that our beliefs can all be shown in and of themselves to be as reasonable as the existence of God Himself. The Trinity, the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, the Real Presence, the inspiration of the Bible, and so on are entirely matters of faith, revealed by God, that cannot be demonstrated by logic or by physical evidence, but that does not mean that such beliefs are automatically irrational. These beliefs become rational by virtue of God's nature whose existence is entirely a matter of rational belief.

- Fr Booth