

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**September 15<sup>th</sup>/September 16<sup>th</sup> 2018: 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Latin)**



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Birmingham, Alabama 35211  
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

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**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 Eugene Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 9<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from September 16<sup>th</sup> until September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This weekend we will have a second collection to help the people of Kerala, India, who have suffered greatly from recent monsoonal flooding.

**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.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** You should have received a letter and a pledge card from the diocese. Our pledge goal this year is \$17,000. All money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese.

**ST GEORGE MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL:** The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Saint George Middle Eastern Food Festival will be held September on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 425 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Drive through will be available from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Traditional Middle Eastern entrees and desserts will be served. For menu and event details, please see <http://saintgeorgeonline.org/food-festival>

**PARISH WORKDAY:** A parish workday is scheduled for Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Knights of Columbus will be providing lunch. We will be dressing up the rectory grounds as well as the church grounds. Times are from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. All are invited. A sign up sheet is available on the parish Facebook page.

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

**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:** 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.).

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

**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

**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.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection for last weekend was \$3375 and \$115 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sun, Sept 16: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Paul Beason (by the Duryea Family)  
Mon, Sept 17 \*8:30 a.m. † Sam Pilato (by the Bryant Family)  
Tues, Sept 18: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jeanne Dinan-Hale (by Bill and Marian Dinan)  
Wed, Sept 19: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for John Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. Private Intention  
Thur, Sept 20: \*8:30 a.m. Private Intention  
Fri, Sept 21: \*7:00 a.m. † John E. Dudley (by Judy and Danny Rohling)  
\*8:30 a.m. Private Intention  
Sat, Sept 22: 4:00 p.m. † Rebecca Morris (by the Bryant Family)  
Sun, Sept 23: 9:00 a.m. Special Intention for Sylvester Theriot (by Cathy Schauer)  
10:45 a.m. Pro Populo

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Dee Joseph, David Bull, 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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 2:12,17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mk 9:30-37  
9:00 a.m. Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 2:12,17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mk 9:30-37  
10:45 a.m. Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8

## *But What About Evil?*

So, it is reasonable to believe in the existence of God, or at least in a power that is capable of creating all that is, that is capable of setting everything in motion, that is the only truly necessary thing in existence, that is most perfect, and that specifies purpose. How these are achieved is neither here nor there. It is sufficient to know that they were accomplished, however it might have been done, for us to know rationally that God or some form of uncreated higher power exists. Further, if we examine the laws of nature we can deduce a lawgiver as well. It is in the law-giving and purpose-determining that we begin to see something that suggests an intelligence and a will in this higher power. This indicates an omnipotent, eternal, uncreated, and personal Being and not just an omnipotent impersonal force such as karma, fate, natural selection, random mutation, etc. since it is impossible to associate intelligence or will to impersonal entities.

Beyond being an omnipotent, eternal, uncreated, and personal Being responsible for the existence of the universe, we cannot really say terribly much more than that based on reason alone or by observation of creation. One might reasonably think of multiple omnipotent, eternal, uncreated, and personal beings. In fact it was quite common to think of a multitude of gods, a god or gods of goodness and a separate god or gods of evil who battle back and forth for supremacy. In very simplistic terms, this line of thinking seems to explain much. It explains why good things happen to evil people and why evil things happen to good people. It explains natural evils like hurricanes and diseases. It explains the profound beauty and manifest ugliness found in the world.

For many people, however, it is difficult to grasp how the Judeo-Christian understanding of one omnipotent, eternal, uncreated, and personal God, a God who is all good and who not only loves but is Love itself, could create a world where evil is not only possible but a world where evil thrives and so often seems much more powerful than the good. And even if He did not create it so, it is equally incomprehensible for many people why a good and loving God would allow evil to continue or why He would not restore all of creation to a state of pure and simple goodness.

Why did God permit Marx, Hitler, Charles Manson, Kermit Gosnell, Idi Amin, Josef Mengele, Pol Pot, Jeffery Dahmer, just to name a very few, to be born? Why did He allow them do what they did? Certainly the world would be a much better place had these, along with millions of other people, never been born. Or, we might ask why God created satan and his cohort of demons? Again, wouldn't everything be better without personified evil? Or why does hell exist? Wouldn't choosing not to create the fallen angels and not creating people who commit great atrocities preclude the need for hell?

Evil, whether natural, manmade, or supernatural, is the most potent argument against the existence of God. Evil seems to point to a lack of omniscience, to a lack of power, and/or to a lack of good will on God's part. Oddly, confronted with profound evil in the world, one might think that people would tend to abandon the Judeo-Christian teaching on God being good and loving and opt for something like the deist view of God as one who created everything but is otherwise totally indifferent to what happens in the world. Instead, people do not try to understand the rational likelihood of God's existence in the light of there being evil in the world but irrationally opt to reject belief in God altogether.

So, as believers how do we reconcile the unmistakable presence of evil in the world while also believing that God is all-good, all-loving, all-powerful, and concerned about every aspect of our lives? First, we have to understand that He created all, absolutely everything, as good without any taint of evil. It remained so until the angels in heaven rebelled, and one third of their number chose evil and rejected good, while Adam and Eve chose to disobey the one commandment that God had given them: it is then we see evil enter into God's perfectly good creation. In other words, evil came into the world by creatures freely rejecting God and all that is good. It is the abuse of our free will that brought creation down and human society as well. God allowed us to choose evil, and He still does, because He respects our free will and He won't force us to do good. Why not? Wouldn't it be better if He made us so that we could not choose evil? No, because then our love would be forced, and forced love is not really love.