

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>/September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018: 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)**

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211**

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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 Catherine L. Kelly, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Joel D. Levenberg from September 30<sup>th</sup> until October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS SCHEDULE:** Beginning in October, we are changing the First Friday Mass schedule. Instead of a 7:00 a.m. Latin Mass on First Friday, we will have a Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m. The first nine of these First Friday Masses will be offered as a novena for our next bishop since Bishop Baker is scheduled for retirement in June. The English Mass schedule will remain unchanged.

**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>

**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 facebook @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 \$3911, \$215 was collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$881 was raised for the flood victims in India. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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  
Mon, Sept 24 \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Rebecca Fernandes (by the Rumore Family)  
Tues, Sept 25: \*8:30 a.m. † John McCauley (by Thomas Casey)  
Wed, Sept 26: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Laura, Rachel, and Sarah Minjares (by John Minjares)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Brook Cusick (by Thomas Casey)  
Thur, Sept 27: \*8:30 a.m. † Dr. James Larose (by the Juneau Family)  
Fri, Sept 28: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Laura, Rachel, and Sarah Minjares (by John Minjares)  
\*8:30 a.m. Private Intention  
Sat, Sept 29: 4:00 p.m. Private Intention  
Sun, Sept 30: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for John Minjares, Sr. (by John Minjares)

**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 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. 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48  
9:00 a.m. 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48  
10:45 a.m. 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eph 4:23-28, Mt 22:1-14

## *Choice for Good or Ill*

We can't say that God created evil because the presence of evil in the world is the fault of disobedient creatures, angels and people who have brought evil into creation through sin. Nor can we assert that God is indifferent towards or incapable of vanquishing evil. After all, if God were indifferent toward evil, He would never have bothered giving us the moral law to follow, He would never have sent His Son to die on the cross to remedy our transgressions of His moral law, and He would never have poured forth the Holy Spirit upon world so that He might tabernacle in our hearts. These are hardly signs of indifference or impotence in the face of evil.

But someone might object because God created satan and the other fallen angels. However, satan and all other angels began as good, just as God created them, but some angels chose evil by rebelling against God. Much the same can be said of mankind. Living in a world untainted by any form of evil Adam and Eve chose to know both good and evil, and therefore embraced both good and evil, by partaking of the forbidden fruit. Their regrettable choice introduced evil into the perfect paradise God had created for them and made their offspring prone to choosing evil as well as estranging us from the very Creator who wanted nothing but the good for us. Fallen man is different than the fallen angels, however, in that we waiver between choosing good and choosing evil. We waiver because our fallen nature sometimes sees good as attractive while at other times evil seems more appealing. Because we are fallen, we sometimes fail to see evil for what it is or we mistake it for good. The fallen angels, however, made a fundamental choice to reject God and in doing so they knowingly chose to reject all that is good. Unlike fallen man, the angels infallibly see evil as evil and good as good. Since angels live outside of time, they cannot change their minds or waiver like we do. The fallen angels made a deliberate, well-informed decision to embrace evil, a choice that is irrevocable.

Living in time and living a contingent existence is both a blessing and a curse. As the very pinnacle of creation we are nonetheless momentarily subject to the powers of nature. As much as some think we can live in harmony with nature, that will never be a possibility. We need tools, weapons, clothes, shoes, and the like because we are ill equipped to survive otherwise. Even if we were far more self-sufficient like the lower animals, we would still find creation to be sufficiently hostile towards us so that any attempts of living in harmony with nature would prove futile. Our wanting harmony with nature is not going to make tornadoes, earthquakes, predators, famine, and diseases go away: it is nature's nature to be hostile towards us and all other creatures.

The hostility of nature is one curse (Gen 3:17-19) of Original Sin. There is social or cultural hostility as well (Gen 3:16). Try as we might, we will always have war, poverty, inequality, exploitation, and every other social ill. We might make progress in some areas, but man's inhumanity towards man is as inescapable as nature's hostility towards man. About the only manner in which we might escape social and cultural evils like war and poverty would be the universal imposition of a soul-crushing, mind-destroying, freedom-usurping totalitarian state where it would be impossible for one man to act unjustly toward another. The state would have to control us so profoundly that we would no longer be making many or perhaps any choices for ourselves. Hardly utopia, hardly social harmony.

But there are blessings of living in time and living in a contingent world such as having the ability to reform our evil inclinations and not being destined or fated to live in a certain way. Over time we can grow in virtue and learn to live and to love as we ought irrespective of what society or even nature does to us. Because we can overcome our evil choices through repentance and God's grace, our sins do not have the last word. While it is true that the temporal consequences of our actions cannot be reversed (for example, even in I return a stolen item undamaged, trust is not thereby restored) any more than we can stop hurricanes or end poverty, the spiritual and eternal consequences of our acts can be undone by choosing to repent and confess our sins. Indeed, Adam and Eve lost much for us in choosing to know both good and evil, but because of our free will and God's grace, we can say along with St Paul that *"the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us"* (Rom 8:18).

- Fr Booth