

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

October 20th/October 21st 2018: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)

22nd Sunday after Pentecost (Latin)



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Birmingham, Alabama 35211

Phone: (205) 785-9840

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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, 6:30 p.m. on First 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 Dennis G. Woods, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from October 21st to October 27th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Sam and Jenn Buchanan from October 28th until November 3rd.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the World Mission Sunday, supporting mission churches throughout the world.

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.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Tuesday, October 30th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Theresa Bonopartis of Lumina Hope & Healing. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.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.

CONTACTING THE FRANCISCANS: the Franciscans of the Fraternity Poor of Jesus Christ can be contacted at (205) 578-2988, on facepage [@poorofjesuschristalabama](https://www.facebook.com/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, Luis Reyes, Matthew Gubenski, and Cristian Padilla. We need to fervently pray for those who are discerning a call to the priesthood.

2018 HIGH MASS DATES: Sunday, October 28th (Christ the King), Sunday, December 16th (Gaudete Sunday, Confirmation), Monday, December 24th (Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m.).

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4348 and \$265 was collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Oct 20: 8:30 a.m. † Thomas Flemming (by the Rumore Family)
4:00 p.m. † Rita Flemming (by the Rumore Family)

Sun, Oct 21: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Rumore Family (by the Rohling Family)

Mon, Oct 22 *8:30 a.m. † Dee Joseph (by Cathy Schauer)

Tues, Oct 23: *8:30 a.m. † Ross Rumore (by the Rumore Family)

Wed, Oct 24: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Anna Pohorelsky (by Lori Donellan)
*8:30 a.m. † Charlene Cooper (by Lori Donellan)

Thur, Oct 25: *8:30 a.m. † Angela Wimmer (by the Rumore Family)

Fri, Oct 26: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Chris Campbell (by the Pohorelsky Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jimmy Thompson (by the Pohorelsky Family)

Sat, Oct 27: 4:00 p.m. † Carl Jusi (by Madeline Sampedro)

Sun, Oct 28: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Sean Marcelino Hughes (by Mary Donellan)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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

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| 4:00 p.m. 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Jer 31:7-9, Heb 5:1-6, Mk 10:46-52 |
| 9:00 a.m. 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Jer 31:7-9, Heb 5:1-6, Mk 10:46-52 |
| 10:45 a.m. Christ the King | Col 1:12-20, Jn 18:33-37 |

The Fall of the Angels

When it comes to the fall of man we are told in the third chapter of Genesis that Adam and Eve disobeyed the one prohibition that God had placed on them, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Because they had both intellect (the ability to know and to reason) and will (the ability to freely choose one thing over another, to choose good and reject evil), Adam and Eve were capable of disobeying what God has prescribed. Their intellect was able to see that the “*tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes*” (Gen 3:6) but also to know that God had prohibited the eating of that one tree’s fruit. Their will, knowing from the intellect that partaking of that one tree’s fruit to be a violation of God’s will, freely chose to do so anyway. By abusing both their intellects and their wills, Adam and Eve managed to reject the very faculties that made them different from the other animals, the faculties that expressed the gift of having been made in the image and likeness of God Himself.

Since the angels also have intellects and wills, they too have the capacity to sin and therefore to fall from God’s grace. One thing that differs from mankind, however, is that since angels do not procreate but were each directly created by God, their obedience or disobedience affected them each individually: in Adam and Eve, all of mankind fell because our first parents could not pass on the graces they were created with to their offspring. They could not give us what they themselves had forsaken.

For us offspring of Adam and Eve, life can be seen as a test as to whether or not we wish to live with God in heaven for all eternity. This amounts to living lives of faith, hope, and love as well as accepting the graces God offers through the sacraments so as to die in a state of grace. If we forsake the invitation to salvation through a lack of faith, hope, and/or love, this is failing the test. If we love our sins more than God through not repenting of our sins, this is also failing the test even if we have faith, hope, and love. This test of whether or not we accept the unmerited gift of heaven unfolds over a lifetime.

For the angels, their test is made in a single choice to accept life in heaven or to choose a life of eternal separation from their Creator. How this choice unfolded and how it was presented to the myriads of angels has not been revealed to us. In one way or another, some angels, perhaps one third of them (Rev 12:4), disobeyed God by abusing their intellect and will thereby forsaking their having been made in the image and likeness of God. The substance of their disobedience remains a mystery, but in all likeliness it has to do with mankind.

It is speculated that the angels fell because God revealed to them, foreseeing the fall of man, that the second Person of the Trinity, the Son, would become one of us and that the angels would not only serve mankind but also worship the God-made-man in Jesus. In their pride, the fallen angels are speculated to have rejected the idea of serving a lower creature in man and to have been offended that God would deign to become one of us. Another possibility is that the angels fell through simple pride, that they aspired to be like God. This might explain the specific temptation that was presented to Adam and Eve, that they would be like God through the eating of the forbidden fruit.

The Bible does give us some insight, however. We read that “*For God formed us to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made us. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who are allied with him experience it*” (Wis 2:23-24). Was satan envious of the fact that God would become man? Was he envious that man would be granted the ability to find forgiveness? Was satan envious that man was originally given dominion over the created world but has pridefully claimed that dominion for himself, becoming the prince of this world (e.g., Jn 14:30) because of man’s fall? Was satan envious that God entrusted the power to mankind to procreate, to share in God’s prerogative to create, through the marital act? If so, this last one explains much.

Whatever the basis for the fallen angels’ envy, we can be sure that pride was at the root of it. Likewise, pride and envy were the root of Adam and Eve’s fall. Will they be our downfall as well? In the absence of humility to undo our pride and kindness to overcome our envy, yes it is entirely possible that we will fall along with the angels. Thankfully, as long as we draw breath in this world, we still can pass the test through God’s grace.

- Fr Booth