

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 15th/December 16th 2018: Third Sunday of Advent



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Eugene Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 16th to December 22nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Mary & Bill Dinan from December 23rd until December 29th.

THIRD SUNDAY: Thus Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a reception for the confirmandi following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

MASS & MARCH FOR LIFE: Bishop Baker will celebrate a Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St Paul on Saturday, January 12th at 9:00 a.m. Following the Mass, there will be a peaceful and prayerful rally and march at Brother Bryan Park at 10:45 a.m. Please come and speak out on behalf of innocent babies and others who can't speak for themselves against the culture of death.

MARDI GRAS DINNER DANCE: We will have a dinner dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, March 2nd 2019 following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to dine and dance.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: Please bring the gift items back with the angel tag attached by this Sunday, December 16th.

ADVENT OUTREACH TO THE CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN: All through the season of Advent we will collect non-perishable food items as well as other basic necessities such as toiletries, diapers, paper goods, and the like for the Catholic Center for Concern. Please help those in need have a better Christmas by meeting their most basic needs.

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.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$7325 and \$125 were collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Mon, Dec 24: 3:30 p.m. Carols
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in English
7:30 p.m. Carols
8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve High Mass in Latin
Tues, Dec 25: 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass in English
10:45 a.m. Christmas Day Low Mass in Latin

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

Sat, Dec 15: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Aric Pohorelsky (by the Hahn Family)
4:00 p.m. † Sylvester Theriot (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Dec 16: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Claire Matthews (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
Mon, Dec 17 *8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, O.P. (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Dec 18: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Runge Family (by the Jones Family)
Wed, Dec 19: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Will Flavin (by the Pohorelsky Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Deacon Glenn Viau (by the Pohorelsky Family)
Thur, Dec 20: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mr. Steele (by the Hahn Family)
Fri, Dec 21: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Mrs. Linday (by the Hahn Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, O.P. (by the Juneau Family)
Sat, Dec 22: 4:00 p.m. † Pete Searcy (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Dec 23: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Confirmandi

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially John Minjares, Sr., Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Vinita Kelly, Penny Vaughn, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Sylvia McCarrick, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Fr Kevin McGrath, OSB, Johnny Young, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, 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. Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10, Lk 1:39-45
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10, Lk 1:39-45
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent	1Cor 4:1-5, Lk 3:1-6

Four Important Things (Continued)

Of the four last things (death, judgment, heaven, and hell) death is not well understood to the point that we don't think about it much. Nevertheless, the wording of the Mass preface for the deceased is instructive: In Jesus Christ 'the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.' Life is changed, not ended. Our faith should tell us that life is not ended, that death does not have the final word. This article of faith is confessed every Sunday in the Creed: 'I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.' But how can we look forward to the resurrection of the dead and eternal life but not address the very gateway to the resurrection and eternal life? To look forward to rising from the dead and to eternal life requires that we look forward, that is to look ahead, to our own deaths. We must look ahead to death because it is a certainty for each one of us and we must look ahead to death because we absolutely need to be prepared for it.

We prepare for Christmas in various ways. We prepare for a visit to the dentist by brushing and flossing. We prepare for our annual checkups by taking our medicines and living the way we ought. We can cancel our dentist and doctor appointments, but we can't really cancel the coming of Christmas. It approaches inexorably, relentlessly, and certainly. We are either prepared for it or we are not when it comes. The same can be said of death, which also comes inexorably, relentlessly, and certainly. The differences are, however, that unlike Christmas we do not know when death will come, that unlike Christmas the stakes are much higher with the arrival of death, and unlike Christmas there will be no next Christmas where we might be better prepared. We get one chance to get it right.

As British author Douglas Adams once quipped, 'It is not the fall that kills you; it's the sudden stop at the end.' We fear the fall because the fall itself leads to the deadly impact, and in the same way, we ought to fear death more because of what it leads to than to fear death in and of itself. As infallibly as death's coming is the coming of the judgment that will immediately follow. This is what we ought to fear. This is what we ought to prepare for.

At the moment of our death, Jesus will judge us. It will be our only purely individual encounter with Him. It won't be a casual encounter either. We will be coming before God. We will be coming before the One who suffered and died for us that we might have salvation. We will come before both the Victim of and the Judge of our sins. It is our sins that put Jesus on the cross, but it is the fruit of the cross that we have the forgiveness that flows from the graces of baptism and reconciliation. Each of our actions will be judged as to whether or not we repented and sought the graces of His forgiveness.

We have to know that judgment is not graded on a curve so we cannot rely on the existence of greater unrepentant sinners than ourselves to make us appear just by comparison: the Lord's judgment will be entirely personal and objective. We have to know that we cannot rely on excuses nor will we be able to blame others for our sins: 'he hit me first' will not sway the Lord. We have to know that the popularity or pervasiveness of a sin will not count in our favor: 'everyone was doing it' will not work before the Lord. We have to know that it takes but one mortal sin on our souls to condemn us: we cannot rely on the idea that our good works outnumber our sins as if we could earn our salvation. We have to know that faith is necessary but insufficient: we are nothing without love (1Cor 13:1-3), which is expressed in terms of obedience to the Lord (Jn 14:15, 1Jn 5:3, 2Jn 1:6), such that faith does not render morality moot. We have to know that we will come before an all-knowing Judge who not only knows the truth but is in fact the Truth itself. If there were circumstances that mitigated our guilt, He will infallibly know them already and take them into account. Thus, we have to know that our Judge is entirely just.

But we also have to know that our Judge is absolutely merciful. By the way we live we will either find the Lord to be most merciful if we have sought His mercy, especially by confessing our sins, or we will find Him to be most just if we have neglected to obtain the graces of His mercy. Indeed, it is not the death that condemns us, but how we lived. By living lives of faith, hope, love, obedience and repentance we will have nothing to fear either in death or in judgment.

- Fr Booth