

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 2nd/February 3rd 2019: 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

4th Sunday after Epiphany (Latin)



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Pastor

Rev. Jim W. Booth

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 Austin Thomas, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 3rd to February 9th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Gary Wolter from February 10th until February 16th.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Church in Latin America.

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

GARAGE SALE: The Franciscans are holding a garage sale on Saturday, February 9th in the morning. They are asking people to donate items for the garage sale (see their contact information below).

VOCATION DISCERNMENT WEEKEND: Those men aged 18 to 40 years who are discerning priestly vocation are invited to attend a weekend retreat given by Fr Brett Brannen, author of "To Save a Thousand Souls." It will be held at Camp Tekakwitha from Friday February 22nd through Sunday the 24th. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Please contact the Office of Vocations with questions or to register at (205) 838-8318 or vocations@bhmdiocese.org

LASAGNA DINNER: Blessed Sacrament will be having our annual Lasagna Dinner following the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, February 23rd. Come one and come all to this homecoming event.

MARDI GRAS PARTY: Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Adamsville will host their annual Mardi Gras party on Saturday, February 23rd from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be musical entertainment and dancing. St. Patrick's: 301 Shamrock Trail, Adamsville, (205) 798-5326. \$25.00 per person, restricted to adults only. Hosted by and benefitting St. Patrick's St. Vincent de Paul Conference. For tickets, please contact Pat Roden at patroden@yahoo.com

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.

2019 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: Sunday, February 10th (Fifth Sunday After Epiphany); Sunday, March 31st (Laetare Sunday); Thursday, April 18th (Holy Thursday); Sunday, April 21st (Easter); Sunday, May 26th (1st Communion); Sunday, June 9th (Pentecost); Thursday, June 20th (Corpus Christi); Thursday, August 15th (Assumption of BVM); Sunday, September 8th (Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost); Sunday, October 27th (Christ the King); Sunday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception); Sunday, December 15th (Gaudete Sunday); and Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve).

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 franciscanspjalabama@gmail.com. **Also**, they have a [signup page to better help facilitate and coordinate](#) those wishing to help in their ministry to the poor: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a48aeaf2ca46-saturday>

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS for 2018 have been mailed.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4396 and \$130 were collected for the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Feb 2: 4:00 p.m. † Neal Tallie (by Marian & Bill Dinan)
Sun, Feb 3: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Patricia Durward (by Alan & Pam Olson)
Mon, Feb 4 *8:30 a.m. † Rebecca Rice (by Ann Noblitt & Ginny Daniel)
Tues, Feb 5: *8:30 a.m. † Rebecca Rice (by Carolyn Mickel)
Wed, Feb 6: *7:00 a.m. † J.C. Cooper, Jr. (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jay Dorion (by Carolyn Mickel)
Thur, Feb 7: *8:30 a.m. † Neal Tallie (by Ann Noblitt & Ginny Daniel)
Fri, Feb 8: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Fr Alan Mackey (by Mary Margaret Rumore)
*8:30 a.m. † Neal Tallie (by the Bryant Family)
Sat, Feb 9: 4:00 p.m. † Deacon Al Germann (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Feb 10: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Robert Trussell (by the Rumore Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Kathryn Ransom Mahon, Levi Ray, Theresa Renna, Daniel Renna, John Minjares, Sr., Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Vinita Kelley, 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, 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. 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 6:1-2,3-8, 1Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11
9:00 a.m. 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 6:1-2,3-8, 1Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11
10:45 a.m. 5 th Sunday After Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30

Four Important Things (Continued)

So what is hell? Many people imagine hell to be a place, a specific location somewhere in the created universe. Strictly speaking, this is incorrect. God did not create hell nor is it a physical place as we understand the term. It is more of a state of being. The Catechism defines hell in the following way: 'We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love him. But we cannot love God if we sin gravely against him, against our neighbor or against ourselves: "He who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1Jn 3:14-15). Our Lord warns us that we shall be separated from him if we fail to meet the serious needs of the poor and the little ones who are his brethren. (Mt 25:31-46). To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him for ever by our own free choice. This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called "hell.'" (CCC 1033).

We should make no mistake about the torments of hell. Hell is not an eternal time-out. The Catechism goes on to state that 'The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, "eternal fire." The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs' (CCC 1035). Indeed, Jesus Himself warns of unquenchable fires of hell, where the worm dies not, where there will be gnashing of teeth, where there will be unspeakable torments. Forever.

Just as many wrongly think that hell is a physical place created by God, many people also think that God actively sends people to hell. This is not the case at all. God does not mercilessly send hapless people into perdition; ultimately it is they themselves that freely choose hell because they reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Catechism could not be more clear on this when it teaches that hell is the 'state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God.' Again, those who fail to attain heaven do so by their own free choice.

It would be easy to say that no one would freely choose eternal torment in hell. And yet we often lament of the profound evil we see all around us. How often have we said words to the effect of 'there is a special place in hell for people who do such and such.' Even those people who have no faith whatsoever understand that no earthly temporal punishment would be enough to satisfy our human sense of justice for those who commit truly heinous acts. What punishment would be appropriate for Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Lizzie Borden, Charles Manson, Ted Bundy, Adolf Eichmann, Margaret Sanger, El Chapo, Saddam Hussein, Bugsy Siegel, and the like? Somehow life in prison or even the death penalty fail to truly punish for what some people have done. Assuming that there was no act of repentance on their part, can we say that Margaret Sanger, racist promoter of abortion and founder of Planned Parenthood, or Adolf Eichmann, architect of the holocaust, freely chose heaven when they are responsible for the murder of millions of innocents? It is hard to imagine.

While it is easy to see that those responsible for millions of murders – absent a true conversion and corresponding repentance – certainly deserve hell, but can we say that Lizzie Borden, the putative killer of her father and stepmother, does not deserve eternal punishment if she did what she was accused of and chose not to repent? After all, she only (perhaps) killed two, not millions. What about Jack Ruby, who only killed one man, Lee Harvey Oswald? Or Hugh Hefner, who murdered no one but facilitated millions of spiritual and, no doubt, physical adulterous affairs? Or the man responsible for only one unrepented affair? Where do we draw the line?

Drawing the line for what acts do or do not merit eternal punishment is not within our competence. That belongs to God and God alone. Thus, we must take to heart what He expects of us because if Charles Manson can't use the greater and more numerous crimes of Saddam Hussein to excuse his guilt how can anyone point to another as an excuse for his own unrepented sins? - Fr Booth