

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 2nd/March 3rd 2019: 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Quinquagesima Sunday (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 Robert C. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 3rd to March 9th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Crawford Mabee from March 10th until March 16th.

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

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection next weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

ASH WEDNESDAY: March 6th is Ash Wednesday. We will have a Latin Mass at 7:00 a.m., an English Mass at 8:30 a.m., and a Latin Mass at 6:00 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, April 19th it will be at 2:30 p.m.) followed by a Lenten potluck meal. We will also have confessions following Stations.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT: This year we will again collect various non-perishable items for the men in the Cenacolo addiction recovery center in Hanceville. For the first Sunday of Lent, we will collect breakfast cereals such as grits, oatmeal, breakfast bars, etc.

IN MEMORY OF SYLVESTER THERIOT, Fr Josh Altonji will be presented with a Knight's of Columbus chalice at the 4:00 p.m. Mass next Saturday, March 9th. The chalice will be donated by KoC Council 931 in memory of Sal, a long-time 4th Degree Knight.

GOLF FORE LIFE: The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, April 5th at Highland Park Golf Course. Highland Golf Course is a great course and fun for golfers of all skill levels. Please come play golf and help raise money for Her Choice, a pro-life pregnancy resource center. Lunch will be provided beginning at 12:00 p.m. and tee-off will be at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$250 (\$125 of which is tax deductible) per individual golfer and prizes will be awarded immediately following the tournament. Questions can be directed to Jim Pinto at (205) 447-8796 or Her Choice at (205) 447-8796. Please register at <http://www.herchoicebirmingham.org>

THE FRANCISCAN Friars have relocated to Our Lady of Fatima's convent, 44 16th Avenue South, which affords them much more room to store materials for their outreach to the homeless. Later this year, perhaps in July, sisters of the same order will occupy the house just west of our rectory.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Justin Ward, Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Luis Reyes, Matthew Gubenski, Cristian Padilla, and Patrick DePew. We need to fervently pray for those who are discerning a call to the priesthood.

2019 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4383 and \$241 were collected for the Preservation Fund. Thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Mar 2:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Baby Daniel Strickland (by the Gagnon Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Levi Ray (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Mar 3:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Ben Paquette (by the Gagnon Family)
Mon, Mar 4	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Budgie Von Hagel (by Linda Miller)
Tues, Mar 5:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Janay Deering (by Donellan Family)
Wed, Mar 6:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for John Morgan (by Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Eli Donellan (by Donellan Family)
Thur, Mar 7:	*8:30 a.m.	† Jacob Baker (by Donellan Family)
Fri, Mar 8:	*7:00 a.m.	† Bertha Sledge (by the Lightsey Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Kathryn Ransom-Mahon (by the Bryant Family)
Sat, Mar 9:	4:00 p.m.	† Fr Robert O'Sullivan (by Teneda Latham)
Sun, Mar 10:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Edith Elisabeth Hejl (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Kenneth Levesque, Kathryn Ransom Mahon, Levi Ray, 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. First Sunday of Lent
9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Lent
10:45 a.m. First Sunday of Lent

Deut 26:4-10, Rom 10:8-13, Lk 4:1-13
Deut 26:4-10, Rom 10:8-13, Lk 4:1-13
2Cor 6:1-10, Mt 4:1-11

Four Sins that Cry Out

It would be nice to think that the sins that cry to heaven are rare or even a thing of the past. This should not be an unrealistic expectation since two of the four sins date all the way back to the times associated with the book of Genesis. After all, we pride ourselves on having made great progress, we pride ourselves on being so much smarter than our ancestors, and we pride ourselves in even thinking we are fundamentally better people than our forebears. We even tell ourselves that we are much more civilized than our ancestors. We might even offer any number of modern innovations as proof of our fundamental superiority: we have indoor plumbing, cars, cellphones, plastics, computers, and the like. We've even landed on the moon.

We are able to convince ourselves of all sorts of things and we can find many measures by which we might make the argument that we are outright better than the people that lived in the past. But how would we stack up on the first sin that cries to heaven, the shedding of innocent blood? Not too well. Since 1973, we have had about 842,000 murders nationwide but we have had about 61,000,000 surgical abortions in the U.S. over that same period. To put that in sharper focus, America has suffered just shy of 1,400,000 war dead since 1775. In other words, 72 babies are killed for every murder victim and 43 are killed for each man that has fallen in combat. No matter how we look at it, the bloodshed from abortion is utterly staggering, and given the innocence and vulnerability of the victims, how can we doubt that this bloodshed does not cry out loud and clear to the heights of heaven?

And if this were not bad enough, a recent vote on the Born-Alive Act, a bill that sought to establish the medical and civil rights of every baby born alive, gathered only 53 votes in the U.S. Senate. This means that nearly half of our senators are comfortable with the deliberate shedding of a baby's blood – infanticide – even after it has been born. Sadly, the even more disheartening fact is that there was almost no public outcry in our country over this. There was hardly a whimper or a sigh that congress failed to protect born babies from being killed directly or indirectly. This probably means that many or even most people agree with those heartless senators or, perhaps even worse, we are more caught up in following our twitter feeds, gossiping on FacePage, or binge-watching *Downton Abbey* to take notice. Even the American bishops remained more or less silent.

Thus, the Church is hardly immune. Besides the lack of outcry over congress' failure to protect babies' lives, and certainly a lack of excommunications that active promotion of abortion and infanticide ought to merit, the recent Vatican summit on the abuse scandal provides evidence that we have also made little progress against the second sin that cries to heaven, the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is an indisputable fact that homosexuality is the primary root of the child abuse scandal: the vast majority of the victims were teenage boys, which speaks volumes about the predator priests and bishops. When the scandal broke in 2002, the typical phrase used was pedophile, as in one who is attracted to prepubescent boys or girls. This obfuscated the real issue – homosexuality – and made the crimes seem that much more heinous. Many bishops were content to let the media portray the scandal in this way so as to avoid dealing with the root cause.

Surely after 17 years the Church would have good answers on the cause of the problem, its prevention, and dealing with the perpetrators. Nope. The Vatican summit focused on topics such as responsibility, accountability, transparency, clericalism, and so forth. Mere buzzwords. No mention of homosexuality at all. No mention of a zero-tolerance policy (can any abuse be tolerated?). No mention of predatory behavior directed against adults. Indeed, the infamous behavior of former cardinal McCarrick was tolerated by many bishops because it was believed that he preyed only on adults, often in ways that would be textbook examples of sexual harassment if he had acted out in the private sector. They might have rationalized his behavior as consensual – a total fiction – as if that made McCarrick's acting out somehow acceptable. No, whether or not the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah are consensual or involve only adults, such sins still cry out to heaven.

- Fr Booth