

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 9th/March 10th 2019: First Sunday of Lent



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
Website: www.myblessedsacrament.org**

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 Crawford Mabee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 10th to March 16th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bessie K. Lawrence from March 17th until March 23rd.

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

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection next weekend for the victims of the recent Lee County tornadoes.

FR BOOTH ON VACATION: Fr Booth will be on vacation from this Sunday afternoon until Friday Stations of the Cross which will be at 6:00 p.m. There will be no daily Masses from Monday, March 11th through Friday, March 15th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations at 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 15th followed by a Lenten potluck meal. We will also have confessions following Stations.

NO MORNING WITH MARY THIS MONTH: Due to a conflicting mother's retreat on Saturday March 16th, there will be no Morning with Mary this Saturday.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

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 second Sunday of Lent, we will collect cooking & baking items such as oil, sugar, all purpose flour, baking flour, tomato paste, tomato sauce, condiments, spices, etc. No vanilla extract, please.

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 this Saturday, March 9th. The chalice will be donated by KoC Council 931 in memory of Sal, a long-time 4th Degree Knight.

ST JOSEPH ALTAR: St Rose Academy is hosting a St Joseph Altar. It will be held on Tuesday, March 19th starting with Mass in the gym at 9:40 a.m. followed by the blessing of the altar and the food and a celebratory meal. All are invited to participate and to bring their favorite Sicilian dish, cookies or pastries to share with the community.

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>

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).

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 mission. 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. Pray for those who are discerning a call to the priesthood.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4776 and \$400 were collected for the Preservation Fund. Thanks for your generosity.

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

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)
Mon, Mar 11 *8:30 a.m. *** No Daily Mass ***
Tues, Mar 12: *8:30 a.m. *** No Daily Mass ***
Wed, Mar 13: *7:00 a.m. *** No Daily Mass ***
*8:30 a.m. *** No Daily Mass ***
Thur, Mar 14: *8:30 a.m. *** No Daily Mass ***
Fri, Mar 15: *7:00 a.m. *** No Daily Mass ***
*8:30 a.m. *** No Daily Mass ***
Sat, Mar 16: 9:15 a.m. *** No Morning With Mary ***
4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Mar 17: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Raymond Gagnon (by the Gagnon 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. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 15:5-12,17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Lk 9:28-36
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 15:5-12,17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Lk 9:28-36
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

Three Eminent Good Works

Now that we have entered into the season of Lent, it is good to keep in mind the call to renew our obligation to Christian devotion. Yes, we are obliged to have devotions. A friend of mine once claimed that Christians did not have to have devotions at all. Following his protestant theology, he insisted that faith was entirely sufficient. While the importance of faith cannot be overstated – one ordinarily cannot expect to be saved without at least an implicit faith – it is not the extent of Christian life simply to believe nor is faith alone sufficient. St Paul makes this clear *“If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing”* (1Cor 13:1-3). Faith absent charity does not save.

So, how is charity practiced or expressed? By what we do, by what we refrain from doing, by what we say, and by what we don't say. Charity, aka love, is not an emotion but a choice despite the claims of our fallen culture. Christian love may, or may not, be accompanied by feelings or emotions, and if there are feelings involved, they may not be happy or positive emotions. Christian love is a choice to place someone else's best interests above our own: first God and then our neighbor. That this love is a choice is demonstrated by Jesus' call to love not just the likeable, but everyone including our enemies.

So how do we develop a life of devotion? Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, gives us a formula: almsgiving (Mt 6:1-4), prayer (Mt 6:5-16), and fasting (Mt 6:16-18). These lead to the storing up of treasure in heaven (Mt 6:19-21) *“where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal.”* Jesus further promises that if we store up heavenly treasures through our acts of love, then our hearts will also reside in heaven.

Almsgiving at the time of Jesus would have been quite personal and much less focused on anonymous giving. Everyone knew the needy in their town or village: the widow, the orphan, the lame, those unable to fend for themselves, etc. Everyone would have also known those who sought to take the charity of others rather than to work. St Paul gives us advice on the latter, saying *“when we were with you, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat”* (2Thes 3:10). With widespread addiction in our culture, we are better off sticking to more anonymous giving through worthy charities than to giving money to total strangers. Giving money to an addict is hardly an act of charity. The better option is to give food or to direct them to where they might get assistance.

Prayer is essential to the life of the Christian. It is much like breathing is to the body. If you stop breathing you will die, likewise, if you stop praying your devotion will tend to die as well. We are called to be in relationship with God as sons and daughters and to be disciples of the Son who prayed to His Father constantly. No human relationship thrives in the absence of communication, so how do we expect our relationship with God to thrive let alone survive without prayer? And how do we love even our enemies, somebody who might even wish bodily harm upon us, except through prayer?

Fasting is also an expression of charity as well. Some might think that eating less makes more food available to the hungry (not really), but that is not the point of fasting. Fasting is an aspect of discipline that benefits us both physically and spiritually. Our animal nature craves food, the fallen aspect of our nature wants more food, and it is the task of our spiritual nature to curb those appetites (we could replace food with FacePage, alcohol, entertainment, leisure, etc.). Fasting allows us to not only curb those appetites but to tame and to conquer them as well. So how is fasting an aspect of love? It is an aspect of love in the sense that it forms in us a properly directed and properly ordered love of self. Vices such as gluttony, lust, and sloth are forms of false self-love, the self-destructive misuse of the good gifts God has given us. Food, wine, desserts, and the like are good gifts from God, but their misuse represents a contempt for the Giver of the gifts and a contempt for ourselves. Unchecked, this false self-love can lead us to love food or some other worldly reality more than we love God.

- Fr Booth