

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 16th/March 17th 2019: Second 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 Bessie K. Lawrence, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 17th to March 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Sam and Mary Montalbano from March 31st until April 6th.

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

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council will meet on Thursday, March 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations at 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 22nd followed by a Lenten potluck meal. We will also have confessions following Stations.

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.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT: We will continue to collect various non-perishable items for the men in the Cenacolo addiction recovery center in Hanceville. For the third Sunday of Lent, we will collect paper goods & cleaning supplies such as napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, liquid dishwashing soap, dishtowels, scouring pads, floor cleaner, etc.

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).

DATE FOR FIRST COMMUNION: We are planning for First Communion on Sunday, May 26th 2019 at the 10:45 a.m. Mass. If you have a child that will be receiving First Communion, please contact Fr Booth. If you are not members of Blessed Sacrament, you must obtain the permission of your pastor for your child to receive First Communion here. Opportunities for first confessions will be offered prior to First Communion.

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 \$4762, \$580 were collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$711 were given toward the Black and Indian Mission second collection. Thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Mar 16: 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)
Mon, Mar 18 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Marian Strahan
Tues, Mar 19: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Terry Rumore, Jr. (by the Donellans)
Wed, Mar 20: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Danny Rohling (by the Rumore Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Lena Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Mar 21: *8:30 a.m. † Zelf Williamson (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Mar 22: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for the Scroggins Family
*8:30 a.m. † Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Mar 23: 4:00 p.m. † Pete Lamberty (by Lynn Bryant)
Sun, Mar 24: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Fr Kieran Neilson, OSB (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. Third Sunday of Lent	Exo 3:1-8,13-15, 1Cor 10:1-6,10-12, Lk 13:1-9
9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Lent	Exo 3:1-8,13-15, 1Cor 10:1-6,10-12, Lk 13:1-9
10:45 a.m. Third Sunday of Lent	Eph 5:1-9, Lk 11:14-28

Three Eminent Good Works: The Spectrum of Almsgiving

While the three eminent good works – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – are a fundamental part of the Christian life (they are hardly optional because Jesus says *when* you pray in Mt 6:5, *when* you fast in Mt 6:16, and *when* you give alms in Mt 6:3, but He does not say *if* we pray, fast, or give), they are particularly suited to the season of Lent. Prayer and fasting are pretty straight forward, or at least they ought to be, but we almost always associate almsgiving with donating money, food, or other material items to the needy. There is more to almsgiving than this. Anything we might give another is a potential avenue for almsgiving. For example, we can give our time and effort for the sake of those who are in need. The same applies to our talents and skills. Something like laboring with Habitat for Humanity is a good example of giving of both time and skill. Volunteering for Meals on Wheels would also be an instance of almsgiving that does not involve stroking a check or opening our wallets.

Indeed, any of the corporal works of mercy applies as a form of almsgiving. The works of mercy, based mostly on Matthew 25:31-46 and Tobit 12:12-13, are feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead. All of these things we do for family: parents do them for their young children and grown children frequently do them for their aging parents. Six of the seven corporal works of mercy are pretty much universal within almost every family, but visiting the imprisoned is less common but something we would almost certainly do for our kin. But the corporal works of mercy become truly works of almsgiving when performed for those outside of the family, especially strangers.

For example, it was once quite common, indeed customary, for Catholics to regularly attend the wakes and funerals of fellow parishioners, even the funerals of people they did not know. If there was a funeral, a cadre of parishioners would attend and assist the deceased and their family with their prayers. For some Catholics it was regarded as a solemn duty to attend funerals, much like Tobit saw that it was a duty to bury fellow Jews who were killed by the Assyrians and left to rot in the streets or outside the walls of Nineveh. Doing so, Tobit placed his life at risk because the Assyrians wanted those Jews they killed to be disgraced in death by denying them burial. Tobit physically buried many, most of whom were not friends or relatives. Those Catholics who frequently attended funerals, however, were hardly risking their lives by doing so: at most they were inconvenienced. The merciful practice of people habitually attending funerals has almost entirely disappeared. Now people generally attend funerals only for family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. It happens frequently that funerals are very lightly attended, even in larger parishes. It is truly sad to see only a handful of people turn up and it is not uncommon for zero parishioners to attend the funerals of even life-long church members.

Attending the funeral is not the only way of helping the deceased. Praying for the dead in and of itself is a form of almsgiving. So is praying for the living. In both of these cases, it would be a spiritual work of mercy, of which there are also seven: counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, comforting the sorrowful, forgiving injuries, bearing wrongs patiently, and praying for the living and the dead. And like the corporal works of mercy, the spiritual works of mercy are especially acts of almsgiving when done for the sake of those we don't really know.

The spiritual works of mercy have also more or less gone by the wayside. Do we really have an appetite for admonishing the sinner? How good are we forgiving injuries anymore? Today, how good are we at bearing wrongs let alone doing so patiently? All we need to do is ask ourselves how we react to those who cut us off on the road. Are we more likely to yell, curse, and/or make rude gestures? When the emotion of the event runs its course, do we forgive the aggressively stupid or the stupidly aggressive driver? Are we prayerfully thankful that we did not get into an accident? Do we pray for that driver and the other drivers that might encounter his bad road manners?

So, if we are looking for ways of giving alms, we need not look much further than the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It won't cost us anything, but the benefits are real indeed. - Fr Booth