

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>/March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019: Third Sunday of Lent**



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Birmingham, Alabama 35211  
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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 Sam and Mary Montalbano, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Walter Roberts from April 7<sup>th</sup> until April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection next weekend for the Burse Club. The Burse Club helps fund the education of our seminarians.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** We will have Stations at 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> followed by a Lenten potluck meal. We will also have confessions following Stations.

**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 fourth Sunday of Lent, we will collect various toiletries such as bar soap, disposable razors, shave cream, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. No mouthwash or hand sanitizer, please.

**GOLF FORE LIFE:** The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 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>

**ST ELIAS ANNUAL LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL:** The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival will be Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. A wide variety of traditional Lebanese entrees and desserts will be sold. Admission is free. For more details see [www.stelias.org/festival.htm](http://www.stelias.org/festival.htm)

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

**DATE FOR FIRST COMMUNION:** We are planning for First Communion on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 \$5158, \$125 were collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$1172 were given toward the Lee County tornado victims.

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

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)  
Mon, Mar 25 \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Clifton Robertson (by Mary Claire Matthews)  
Tues, Mar 26: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Scott Scroggins  
Wed, Mar 27: \*7:00 a.m. Private Intention  
\*8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, OP  
Thur, Mar 28: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Anna Scroggins  
Fri, Mar 29: \*7:00 a.m. † Jacob Baker (by George & Madeline Sampedro)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, OP  
Sat, Mar 30: 4:00 p.m. † Aneen Feenker (by Bill & Marian Dinan)  
Sun, Mar 31: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Ella Cockerham (by Mary Claire Matthews)

**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. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Josh 5:9,10-12, 2Cor 5:17-21, Lk 15:1-3,11-32
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Josh 5:9,10-12, 2Cor 5:17-21, Lk 15:1-3,11-32
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15

## ***Three Eminent Good Works: The Spectrum of Prayer***

In saying in the Sermon on the Mount, “*when you pray*” (Mt 6:5), “*when you fast*” (Mt 6:16), and “*when you give alms*” (Mt 6:3), Jesus makes these three acts of devotion mandatory. It is not as if He says if you pray, if you fast, or if you give alms as if they were matters of choice on our part. No, He says *when*, which tells us that we ought to be doing these very things.

Most Christians recognize the necessity of prayer. It really ought to be more important to us than eating, more akin to something like breathing. Alas, despite the fact we understand the necessity of prayer, we struggle to make it a priority. Since we struggle with making prayer a priority it necessarily follows that we also struggle to make prayer a reality. We seem to have a strong tendency to pray when we or someone else we know is in need. If everything is going well, we often pray less, and when things are falling apart, we often pray more frequently and more fervently. We really should be seeing prayer not as a matter of getting what we want but wanting to pray for its own sake. Indeed, prayer is an aspect of our relationship with God and therefore we ought to pray whether in good times or bad times, whether richer or poorer, and whether we are in sickness or in health all of the days of our lives.

How we pray is also something that greatly varies from Christian to Christian. Some people will focus almost exclusively on individual prayer, some will tend to pray mostly in a group setting, some will pray extemporaneously, while others will rely more on existing prayers such as the Our Father. Some, quite wrongly, will insist that all prayer must be individual and some will, quite wrongly, claim that all prayer must be said in an impromptu or extemporaneous way. A few will even shy away from anything other than a pre-written prayer or from praying in private. The reality is that our prayer ought to be both individual and communal, both spontaneously ‘from the heart’ and from ‘canned’, pre-written prayers.

For example, a father ought to pray privately, pray with his wife, pray with his family as a whole, perhaps pray with a child if they are in need of his support, and pray with his parish family. None of these really are superfluous or optional. His private prayers might focus on the challenges faced in his moral life, on seeking divine assistance in providing and protecting his family, and so forth. His prayer with his wife might include thanksgiving for their relationship and their family, on the challenges they face in their marriage, in seeking divine guidance in the decisions they face as a couple and as a family, and so on. The father might pray with his son about discerning the son’s vocation, comforting his daughter’s fears, expressing his unconditional love for them as an image of God’s love, and emphasizing and fostering in his children the necessity for their own personal and private prayer life. The father ought to lead the family in the rosary, the reading of Scripture, the table blessing, and in response to the challenges faced by the family as a whole and the needs of the extended family. Finally, the family ought to pray as part of the parish community especially at Mass. Prayer indeed is a matter of relationship, but not just our personal relationship with God: it must also encompass and involve our human relationships as well. Where there is love – it would be more accurate to say where there ought to be love – there ought to be prayer as well.

Love here is key. It is all too easy to see prayer as an avenue for obtaining what we want from God as if we were merely needy children. Although we are needy children before God, we are also called to rise above our neediness and pray not only for what we want of what we need but pray simply out of love for Him. Even if Jesus did not die for our sins, opening the way for us to obtain heaven, we would still be obliged to love God as our creator and simply out of respect for who He is. Thus, we ought to pray not just for our wants and necessities and the needs of others, but also out of contrition for our sins, in thanksgiving for all of the good things we have received from God, and in adoration of His divine majesty.