

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**March 30<sup>th</sup>/March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019: Fourth 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 this 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, April 5<sup>th</sup>, which will **not** be followed by a Lenten potluck meal. The First Friday Latin Mass will follow at 6:30 p.m.

**FIRST FRIDAY**: We will have our First Friday English Mass on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

**FIRST SATURDAY**: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

**FIRST SUNDAY**: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 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 fifth Sunday of Lent, we will collect various dried goods, such as rice, beans, peas, pasta, Parmesan cheese, etc.

**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 27<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 \$3093 and \$125 were collected for the Preservation Fund.

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

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)  
Mon, Apr 1 \*8:30 a.m. † Annie Diergo (by Teneda Latham)  
Tues, Apr 2: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Josh Meeker (by the Hahn Family)  
Wed, Apr 3: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Emma Seifert (by Mary Donellan)  
\*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Becket John Faulkner (by the Sampedros)  
Thur, Apr 4: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Beth Matthews & Baby (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)  
Fri, Apr 5: \*8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, OP  
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for our next Bishop  
Sat, Apr 6: 8:30 a.m. † Mark Carmichael (by Alan & Pam Olson)  
4:00 p.m. † Ben Romano (by Bill & Marian Dinan)  
Sun, Apr 7: 9:00 a.m. Special Intention for Kay Dorian (by Cathy Dinan)  
10:45 a.m. Pro Populo

**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. Fifth Sunday of Lent Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11  
9:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11  
10:45 a.m. Passion Sunday Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59

## *Three Eminent Good Works: Fasting*

I could not possibly live without such-and-such. Many people say this as if it was actually true. Unless they are talking about breathing, eating, drinking, sleeping, or praying, chances are that such-and-such is not as essential as they might think. This such-and-such, whatever it might be, could really be a good thing, such as exercise, a job, a spouse, family, grandchildren, and so forth. Other things are more neutral, basically good things that can be prone to abuse or intemperate use. Examples of such things would be chocolate, coffee, desserts, possessions, beer, wine, leisure, recreation, the internet, and so on. Things falling in this category are easily distinguished from truly essential things in the following way: if people 50, 100, 200, or 500 years ago could live fulfilling lives without these things, then they truly are not as essential as we might otherwise regard them. For example, St Thomas Aquinas and St Paul knew nothing of chocolate, coffee, or the internet, but it would be impossible to say that they did not live full and salutary lives. Likewise, most of these neutral things are prone to addictive behavior. Whether we like it or not, temperance is required for their proper and fruitful use.

Anything that we might need temperance to use properly is thus subject to fasting. Again, some will say that I could not possibly live without chocolate, the internet, beer, wine, desserts, coffee, and the like. That billions of people have lived without them and billions continue to live without them is proof that these things are not truly as essential as we might think. It would be more accurate and honest to say that perhaps we would prefer not to live without chocolate, the internet, beer, wine, desserts, and coffee. Or, more likely, we have grown physically, emotionally, or spiritually attached to various things that seem important but truly are not.

If we think, for example, that we could not be happy without Facepage or Tweeter, then we have some personal reevaluation to do. If life would seem impossible without beer, wine, or desserts, then we have some personal reevaluation to do. If I could not function without Facepage or coffee or whatever, we might have let them become an addiction.

Here is where fasting becomes important. Fasting not only is an exercise in temperance – in some cases fortitude – but also is essential to a disciplined life. Without the cardinal virtues of prudence, temperance, fortitude, and justice we cannot hope to live a disciplined life, and as Plato and other ancient philosophers insisted, one could not even be considered a good citizen in the absence of prudence, temperance, fortitude, or justice. St Augustine took the cardinal virtues a step further and related each of them to love: ‘temperance is love giving itself entirely to that which is loved; fortitude is love readily bearing all things for the sake of the loved object; justice is love serving only the loved object, and therefore ruling rightly; prudence is love distinguishing with sagacity between what hinders it and what helps it. The object of this love is not any thing, but only God, the chief good, the highest wisdom, the perfect harmony’ (*Against the Manichaeans*).

Fasting, which primarily relates to temperance, is therefore an act of self-giving love for God. By restraining ourselves we are basically saying ‘Lord, I love You more than beer or chocolate or Facepage.’ It follows that intemperance is undisciplined and disordered self-love. Self-love necessarily excludes God, and in the form of intemperance it says ‘Lord, I love beer or chocolate or Facepage more than You.’ Put in those terms, it is impossible for a Christian to argue that temperance stemming from fasting is of little or no importance.

Because of our penchant for self-love, we really do not appreciate temperance and fasting. Self-love absolutely leads to self-indulgence. Self-indulgence is seldom beneficial to us and frequently detrimental. Self-control in the form of temperance almost always benefits us physically and emotionally, and if we see temperance as an expression of love for God, the spiritual benefits become undeniable. Thus, let us not shy away from fasting, and certainly let us not think that fasting is just for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday or only appropriate for Lent, but it is a worthy endeavor helping us in this life and helping us towards the life to come.

- Fr Booth