

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 3rd/August 4th 2019: Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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 Eileen Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 4th to August 10th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Beverly Grisham from August 11th until August 17th.

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

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Catholic high school students interested in working with youth having intellectual and developmental disabilities in the diocese's Nazareth House Program are invited to a training workshop on Saturday, August 17th from 10:00 a.m. until noon at St Francis Xavier School. Students who help out with Nazareth House are eligible for service hours necessary for graduation or scholarships. For more information, please contact Fr Cullen at Fr.Cullen@stpaulsbhm.org.

FATHER JAMES E. COYLE MEMORIAL MASS: Let us remember a holy priest killed in the line of duty. A memorial Mass will be offered on Friday, August 9th at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of St Paul. Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Fr Coyle. For more information, please see <http://www.fathercoyle.org/> or call (205) 447-8796.

2019 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They are searching to fill the following positions: gift shop manager, accounting assistant, groundskeeper, IT support technician, non-linear editor, production assistant, traffic assistant, on-air graphic designer, viewer services representative. Information on job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com. Please email cover letter, salary requirements & resume to humanresources@ewtn.com

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Luis Reyes, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, and John Gardiner.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4513 and \$225 were collected for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Aug 3: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Bill & Judy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Sandra & Rick Phillips (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Aug 4: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)

Mon, Aug 5 *8:30 a.m. † Marin Sertell (by Sharron & Susan Sertell)

Tues, Aug 6: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Charlotte Rumore (by the Donellan Family)

Wed, Aug 7: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Donna Ayers (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Shirley Flynn (by Peter & Sharron Gagnon)

Thur, Aug 8: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jennifer Rodriguez (by the Hahn Family)

Fri, Aug 9 *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for the Scroggins Family
*8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, OP

Sun, Aug 11: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Mina Keasler, Fr Jim Handerhan, Isabella Auer, Donald Nettleman, Kenneth Levesque, Levi Ray, John Minjares, Sr., Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Vinita Kelley, 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, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Liz Bailey, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Anna Marie Madison, Kathleen Strawmeyer, Cindy Little, Stan Trawick, David Henning, Loretta Mara, Lillie Rumore, Jennie Sciro, Stephanie Perry, and Marcus Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 18:6-9, Heb 11:1-2,8-19, Lk 12:32-48
9:00 a.m. Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 18:6-9, Heb 11:1-2,8-19, Lk 12:32-48
10:45 a.m. Ninth Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 10:6-13, Lk 19:41-47

These are Interesting Times, Slower Learner Edition

Being slow learners is hardly a new thing. Thus, we should not be surprised that a growing number of people want to give socialism yet another chance to work despite its total failure to live up to the promises that are supposed to come forth. Even on a small scale, the only ones to succeed in living something akin to a true socialist society would be the various religious communities. Even then, these communities only work because the members all choose to live this way and they also strive to live in a manner that is as Christ-like as possible. Remove the voluntary aspect, and the community is bound to fail. Remove the Christ-focused life of charity and humility, and the community is almost certainly doomed. Even when freely chosen and animated by love, the communal life of the monastery or convent remains difficult. Not all can live this way, and not all can live the specific way that particular communities and orders prescribe for their members. Even then, the vast majority of convents and monasteries could not function without support from the outside world.

In any case, we see all throughout religious history that we make the same mistakes over and over and over. For example, when the Israelites grew impatient because Moses had not returned from the heights of Mt. Sinai, they did not just sort of ease back into ungodly ways. No, they plunged into idolatry and debauchery almost immediately. Supposing that Moses was dead, they failed to ask about the God that brought them out of Egypt, the God that provided them manna and water in the desert, the God that divided the Red Sea in two, the God that defeated the entire Egyptian army. If Moses is dead, in what way does that mean God is dead? This is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God who promised them so much, and the God who had never failed them. And yet they bow down to a golden calf made by Aaron.

Surely this embarrassing bit of history would have been heeded by future generations, right? Sadly it was not the case. God tried to guide them away from falling back into idolatry in many ways, such as forbidding intermarriage with pagans and discouraging the people from living near or amongst the pagans. God knew that marrying pagans and living among them would bring about a desire to be like them. They eat pork and they seem to be fine. They get more work done because they work on the sabbath but we don't. They have gods of weather and fertility and war, shouldn't we have such gods too? Wouldn't it be better to call upon our God and additionally call upon the various pagan gods as well? Wouldn't we be better off having several gods working for us and protecting us than just the one God Moses spoke for? They proved to be unfaithful despite the lessons of the past.

One incident is quite telling. Over a thousand years after the Exodus, when the kingdom ruled by Saul, David, and Solomon split after Solomon's death, the people of the northern kingdom no longer had access to the Temple or the Ark in Jerusalem, which was in the southern kingdom. Thus, they created their own temple in Samaria. Not having anything to put into an ark – no manna, no tablets, no staff of Aaron – they chose a very different item to place in the holy of holies of their temple: they fashioned a golden calf! That making a golden calf to worship did not work out so well for their ancestors in the Sinai desert did not stop them from making an idol again and again in the form of a calf. Had they made an idol in the form of an eagle or a lion or a bear would suggest a desire to have a different outcome than that experienced by their ancestors. Yet they were surprised that a golden calf still did not work for them either.

This struggle against pagan ways and idolatry ran all through the history of the Jews and was even a problem at the time of Christ. It remains a struggle today for Jews and gentiles alike. How many people treat politics or college football much like an idol? How many people treat money or power or pleasure or fame as an idol? Yes, despite thousands of years of bad experience with idolizing things we still do so. Granted, we generally don't make obvious physical idols and fall down to worship them, nevertheless so many worldly things capture our hearts and minds that are unworthy of our devotion. In other words, mankind as a whole tends to learn at a glacial pace. - Fr Booth