

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Oct 26th/Oct 27th 2019: Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Christ the King (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 Sam and Jennifer Buchanan, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from October 27th to November 2nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Mary and Saverio Miranda from November 3rd until November 9th.

REST IN PEACE: Sylvia McCarrick, mother of Philip McCarrick, passed away on October 8th and was laid to rest on October 11th. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

REST IN PEACE: Vinita Kelley passed away on October 19th and was laid to rest on October 24th. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

ALL SAINTS DAY: Friday, November 1st is All Saints Day, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have a vigil Mass in English on Thursday, October 31st at 6:00 p.m. On November 1st we will have a Low Latin Mass at 7:00 a.m., Mass in English at 8:30 a.m. and a Low Latin Mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m.

ALL SOULS DAY: We will have a Latin Low Mass at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 2nd. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the souls in purgatory by visiting a church and reciting an Our Father and the Nicene Creed.

FIRST FRIDAY: First Friday falls on the Solemnity of All Saints and therefore there will be no adoration or benediction following the 8:30 Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: November 3rd is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Abby Johnson, who once worked for Planned Parenthood and whose conversion is chronicled in the recent movie *Unplanned*. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight or make a life-saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Catholic Charities letter and a pledge card from the diocese. Our pledge goal this year is \$16,000. All money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese.

2019 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: Sunday, October 27th (Christ the King); Sunday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception); Sunday, December 15th (Gaudete Sunday); and Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve).

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 \$4904, \$150 were collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$701 were given to the World Mission second collection. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Oct 26:	4:00 p.m.	† Tilly Cross (by James & Nida Hammond)
Sun, Oct 27:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Anthony Stanley (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Oct 28	*8:30 a.m.	† Fr Lambert Greenan, OP
Tues, Oct 29:	*8:30 a.m.	† Ed & Dorothy Sampedro (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
Wed, Oct 30:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Sr Mary Faustina (by Monaca Duvall)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Marie Dirgo (by Teneda Latham)
Thur, Oct 31:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Henry Lear (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
	6:00 p.m.	Special Intention for John & Cecilia Sampedro (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
Fri, Nov 1:	7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Richard Bull (by Allan Bull)
	8:30 a.m.	Pro Populo
	6:00 p.m.	† Harry B. & Sarah P. Thompson (by Dr. Sam Thompson)
Sat, Nov 2:	8:30 a.m.	† Poor Souls
	4:00 p.m.	† JoAnn Milan Piazza (by James & Nida Hammond)
Sun, Nov 3:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for John Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Fr Frank Milienewicz, Jerry Joiner, Natalie Karen Caraccilo, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Laura Minjares, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Mina Keasler, Isabella Auer, Levi Ray, John Minjares, Sr., Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Fr Kevin McGrath, OSB, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, George Dunham, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, 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.	31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 11:22-12:2, 2Thes 1:11-2:2, Lk 19:1-10
9:00 a.m.	31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 11:22-12:2, 2Thes 1:11-2:2, Lk 19:1-10
10:45 a.m.	21 st Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 6:10-17, Mt 18:23-35

More Problematic Progress

The progression of sin is not limited to committing more sins of a particular type or more egregious sins of one type. Sinfulness can progress in a more holistic and worrisome way. This progression can happen at the personal level, and more disturbingly, at a societal or cultural level. We see this in people's attitudes about certain sins. Cohabitation was once rightly regarded as scandalous and wholly unacceptable behavior; now it has become not only acceptable but even expected. Certain perversions that were once unspeakable in polite conversation are now lionized to such a degree that this type of lifestyle is regarded as courageous, virtuous, and perfectly normal, even more normal than what is truly normal. Abortion has gone from something that was clearly understood to be infanticide to something that needs to be safe, legal, but rare to being seen as a morally responsible and laudable act. In like manner, if it weren't for the priest scandal of 2002 and the ongoing bishop scandal, we would likely be well on the road to the normalization and acceptance of pedophilia. Just prior to the 2002 scandal, the American Psychological Association was cautiously moving toward declaring pedophilia to be just another orientation rather than a disorder or disease. Decriminalization would have eventually followed.

How does this happen? How can we lose our collective minds and moral compasses? Many people might think that we are immune from becoming like Nazi Germany. But if the most educated, sophisticated, and culturally advanced nation in Europe a century ago could spawn Dachau, the application of a broader genetic hygiene program, enslavement of lesser peoples, and so on, how can we imagine that such a path would be impossible in our own country? It is entirely possible because sin twists and deforms us in a progressive manner.

The first step in this process is that immoral acts get easier. Almost everyone suffers from this personally. The first time we take something that is not ours or we tell a blatant lie is the toughest violations of the Seventh and Eighth Commandments. Further transgressions carry progressively less shame and become increasingly easier to commit. The first time a man commits adultery will be the worst instance, so much so that he never does it again or he is emboldened to indulge in this sin again and again. Most sins become easier with time and repeated transgression.

The next progression is that we become complacent with sin. This is the natural outcome of the first step. As sin becomes easier to commit, we become less distraught. Repeated sin can deaden the conscience so much that sin becomes normal everyday behavior. This can lead the gangster to see what he does as only business, and this no doubt led many concentration camp guards to grow numb to what they saw, to what they heard, and ultimately to what they did. The abortionist must become morally deadened to what he does in the same way.

One of the mechanisms for justifying unjustifiable behavior is to see the sin as a positive and praiseworthy act. Thus, once complacency sets in, vice becomes virtue. The abortionist tells himself that he is providing a much needed service, the bank robber merely liberates what is – in his mind – rightfully his, killing or maiming loggers becomes justified for the sake of saving the trees, and so on.

Once evil becomes seen as good, when vice becomes virtue, it is natural for virtue to be seen as vice. This naturally leads to hatred for the virtuous. Just look at how the scribes and Pharisees grew to hate Jesus. He was a drunkard and glutton. He was in league with satan. He was a charlatan and a subversive.

Hatred for the virtuous leads to the fifth step in the progression of immorality: hatred for the virtuous leads to the elimination of the virtuous. Cain could not stand the idea of Abel's sacrifice being more acceptable than his own, so Abel had to die. The chief priests and scribes felt duty-bound to have Jesus killed. His goodness could not be tolerated (see Wisdom 2:12–20). No doubt this last step in the progression of sin has led to many Christians being martyred. No doubt it will continue to lead to more persecution and more martyrdom. So, where is our culture in this progression of sin? Our society is certainly becoming quite advanced in this sad and sinful progression.

- Fr Booth