

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*February 8th/February 9th 2019: Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Septuagesima Sunday (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

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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 Gary Wolter, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 9th to February 15th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Jr. from February 16th until February 22nd.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, February 15th. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

DINNER DANCE: We will have a dinner dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, February 22nd following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to dine and dance.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES for 2020, arranged alphabetically, are in the vestibule at the back of the Church

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN: If you think God might be calling you to priesthood, you are invited to a Priestly Discernment Weekend hosted by the Office of Vocations from February 21st to 23rd. The event will be held at Casa Maria Retreat Center in Irondale. The weekend begins Friday evening and continues through lunch on Sunday. Father John McDonald will be the retreat master for the weekend and will be joined by Father Rick Chenault, Vicar for Vocations, Father Josh Altonji, Assistant Vocations Director, and seminarians of the diocese. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact the Office of Vocations (205) 838-8318 or vocations@bhmdiocese.org

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN: The Sister Servants of the Eternal Word are hosting a discernment retreat for women from age 18 to 30. The retreats will be held at Casa Maria Retreat Center in Irondale from Wednesday, March 18th through Sunday, March 22nd. Any interested women should contact the Sister Servants at vocations@sisterservants.com or (205) 317-8787.

TENTATIVE 2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: Sunday, March 1st (1st Sunday of Lent); Sunday, March 22nd (4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday); Sunday, April 12th (Easter Sunday); Sunday, May 3rd (3rd Sunday after Easter, First Communion); Sunday, May 31st (Pentecost); Thursday, June 11th (Corpus Christi); Sunday, July 12th (6th Sunday after Pentecost); Sunday, August 9th (10th Sunday after Pentecost); Sunday, September 13th (15th Sunday after Pentecost); Sunday, September 27th (17th Sunday after Pentecost); Sunday, October 25th (Christ the King); Sunday, November 1st (All Saints); Sunday, November 29th (1st Sunday of Advent); Sunday, December 13th (3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday); Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$5598 and \$610 were collected for the Preservation Fund.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, and John Gardiner. Please pray for more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

DATE FOR FIRST COMMUNION: First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 3rd 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.

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

Sat, Feb 8:	4:00 p.m.	† Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Feb 9:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Danny Rohling (by the Rumore Family)
Mon, Feb 10	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jonathan Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Feb 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Alexander Arroyo (by the Gagnon Family)
Wed, Feb 12:	*7:00 a.m.	† Robert Lucky (by the Rumore Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Carolyn Sertell (by Susan Sertell)
Thur, Feb 13:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mother Louise Marie SsEW
Fri, Feb 14:	*7:00 a.m.	† J.C. Cooper, Jr. (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention David & Alexandria Raffin (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
Sat, Feb 15:	8:30 a.m.	† Robert Trussell (by the Rumore Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Feb 16:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Alicia Sampedro (by George & Madeline Sampedro)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Lee Gaissert, Lawrence Brandley, Don Williams, Roseanne Timpa, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Natalie Karen Caraccilo, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Laura Minjares, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Mina Keasler, Isabella Auer, Levi Ray, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Files, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Paul Herrmann, Debbie Zeller, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, George Dunham, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, Cindy Little, Stan Trawick, David Henning, Loretta Mara, Lillie Rumore, Stephanie Perry, and Marcus Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 15:15-20, 1Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37
9:00 a.m. Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 15:15-20, 1Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37
10:45 a.m. Sexagesima	2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15

A Needed Renaissance

The East German secret police, the Stasi, was one truly nasty organization. It was the East German equivalent of the KGB and surpassed their Soviet counterparts on many levels. For example, they kept scent samples of people stored just in case they had to track someone with bloodhounds. Likewise, it is estimated that up to one in four East Germans were Stasi informants expected to report suspicious or subversive behavior especially regarding their own families. No doubt almost every family had an informant or perhaps in some cases even several. It is almost a certainty that some husbands and wives would have been informants unbeknownst to one another, reporting each other's seditious behavior. That might not end well. Hardly a prescription for happy ever after.

This level of oppressive surveillance sprang from the government's fear of uprising and revolution. Every socialist regime has felt the need for a secret police to protect the state from the people. Why else would the Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria, Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, China, etc. all had or have secret police organizations? Why else would their border security focus on keeping citizens in the country much more than keeping foreigners out? Why else would such countries come up with concepts like political correctness as a measure of whether or not someone was a citizen in good standing? This all strongly suggests that socialism simply does not work.

The American understanding of political correctness comes from the concept developed in repressive totalitarian socialist regimes, especially the Soviet Union. Thankfully, we do not have millions of secret police informants watching everything we do and hanging on every word we say. Thankfully we don't have listening devices planted everywhere we turn. Wait, don't we have so-called smart speakers and cellphones all over the place? In fact 93% of Americans have cellphones that could potentially be turned into an informant network beyond the wildest dreams of any secret police organization, even the Stasi.

And how do we know that our smart devices are not eavesdropping on us? Much evidence exists to suggest that they are monitoring what we say and what we type. So far this has been largely for marketing purposes, but in the hand of a totalitarian state, who knows how what Cortana, Siri, and Alexa hear might be used? It is truly conceivable that our government or others might misuse access to such a wealth of information, whether they do so legally or illegally, whether it is done openly or covertly. No doubt such access will start out small, targeting terrorists for example, and be done with or without a warrant. No doubt there has been and will continue to be abuses.

So, what stands between what we have now and what we might have at the hands of a totalitarian state? We have already seen the contempt that many in power have for the people. We have already seen the power of the government used to persecute certain citizens and certain groups of people. The IRS and the FBI have both been used as tools of political persecution. The reason we have such abuses and why we don't have more widespread abuse of our God-given rights hinges on one factor: virtue or the lack thereof.

Indeed, democracy relies on the virtue of those who govern and those who are governed. Patrick Henry noted that 'Bad men cannot make good citizens. It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains. A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom. No free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.' What we are seeing is true virtue being supplanted by false virtue. This is being done by the removal of God from the public square and by touting the so-called virtues attached to political correctness. It is now a virtue to hate people with whom you disagree. It is now a virtue to be triggered by the presence of certain people. It is now a virtue to see others as deplorable while claiming to be open minded and tolerant. In other words, we need a moral and religious renaissance or else we will see many martyred on the altar of political correctness.

- Fr Booth