

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**August 17th/August 18th 2019: Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Eleventh 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 Glenn L. Varnell, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from August 25th to August 31st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of John Schauer, Jr. from September 1st until September 7th.

REST IN PEACE: Donald Nettleman, cousin of Julia Bryant, passed away on August 17th and was laid to rest on August 20th. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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

FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL: The Franciscan Friars will host a Festival in the backyard of Our Lady of Fatima (44 16th Ave South) on Saturday, September 14th from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be games, songs, and food available for purchase. For more information, please contact Friar Rafael at (205) 578-2988 or at mattalbot@ocaminho.org

SCAM ALERT: People in our diocese are getting emails or texts from someone posing as one of our priests asking them to buy gift cards for the needy. This is a scam and all such texts or emails should be ignored and deleted.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: In the near future you should receive 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, 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).

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 \$5533 and \$75 were collected for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

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

Sat, Aug 24: 4:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by the Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Aug 25: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo

10:45 a.m. Special Intention of Stewart Miller (by Danny & Judy Rohling)

Mon, Aug 26 *8:30 a.m. Private Intention

Tues, Aug 27: *8:30 a.m. † Marin Sertell (by Sharon & Susan Sertell)

Wed, Aug 28: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)

*8:30 a.m. † Gina Fontana (by Teneda Latham)

Thur, Aug 29: *8:30 a.m. † Mary Cooper (by the Donellan Family)

Fri, Aug 30: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Danny & Judy Rohling (by the Hahn Family)

*8:30 a.m. † Fr Lambert Greenan, OP

Sat, Aug 31: 4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by the Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Sep 1: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo

10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Greg & Christy Miller Family (by Danny & Judy Rohling)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Laura Minjares, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Mina Keasler, Isabella Auer, 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. 22nd Sunday of Ord. Time Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29, Heb 12:18-19,22-24, Lk 14:1,7-14

9:00 a.m. 22nd Sunday of Ord. Time Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29, Heb 12:18-19,22-24, Lk 14:1,7-14

10:45 a.m. 12th Sunday After Pentecost 2Cor 3:4-9, Lk 10:23-37

Loving Truth

There is much that must be considered in the teachings of Jesus. He simply cannot be pigeon-holed as a wise man, a philosopher, sage, miracle worker, therapist, or revolutionary. Jesus is much more than that, primarily because of His divinity. So when He teaches, on marriage for example, Jesus' words are not only authoritative but also unchangeable and irreformable. In teaching "*He who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one.'*" So they are no longer two but one. *What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder*" (Mt 19:4-6), Jesus is affirming that marriage is between one man and one woman and that the bond formed – by God – cannot be dissolved by any man or human authority. Nearly two thousand years later His teaching remains and cannot be discounted because of its antiquity, or because of changes in our culture, or because we now somehow think we a wiser than Jesus. This principle applies to all of His teachings.

We can say that Jesus taught the truth because in His divinity He could not be mistaken nor could He put forth lies. What Jesus says is thus utterly reliable. It is the truth. It is even appropriate to say it is The Truth because of the way He identified Himself when saying "*I am the way and the truth and the life*" (Jn 14:6). Thus, Jesus is truth incarnate and He is personified truth. Untruths and half-truths remain totally foreign to Whom and What Jesus is. Indeed, untruths and half-truths, since they are denials of the truth, amount to denials of Jesus.

Another way of looking at it is that truths are a revelation of Jesus to one degree or another. Yes, two plus two equals four does not reveal much about Jesus other than the fact that truth is totally objective and timeless, but the truth that we are sinners and have no hope of attaining salvation from our sins by our own efforts reveals the truth that we need a Savior. To say that we are not sinners or that we do not need to be forgiven would be a lie, it would be a denial of Jesus' mission to save mankind. To say that the baptism or faith or repentance that Jesus calls for is unnecessary or superfluous would be a lie. To say that morality is inconsequential to our salvation so long as we have faith and so long as we love would be a falsehood as well. To say that being a basically good person necessarily leads to salvation would be yet another untruth, because, after all, why did Jesus need to be born, suffer, and die if salvation merely boiled down to being nice. And if these are untrue, then they are a denial of Jesus.

Jesus, again by virtue of His divinity, can also be identified as love. As St John writes, "*Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love*" (1Jn 4:8). Thus, Jesus is love incarnate and He is personified love. We can therefore say that, just as every falsehood and half-truth is a denial of Jesus, every unloving act is also a denial of our Lord. This is perhaps one of the better ways of understanding the nature of our sins: they are not mere violations of rules or regulations but a denial of Jesus. Denying Jesus certainly has consequences: "*This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself*" (2Tim 2:11-13).

If Jesus is truth and if Jesus is love, we must recognize that love and truth are inseparable. Telling someone a blatant falsehood is an unloving act and therefore a denial of Jesus, even if the falsehood brings some form of comfort to the one being lied to. Telling a half-truth is an unloving act and a denial of Jesus even if the half-truth spares the feelings of someone or makes them feel better. Omitting the truth or withholding it from someone who needs it or has a right to hear it, especially the Gospel, is yet again an unloving act.

Our current cultural situation complicates both the truth and love. Many have been taught and have come to believe that truth is relative or that mere opinions are truth. Likewise, love must be understood in terms of wanting what is best for the other, regardless of the cost, and the ultimate expression of love is desiring eternal salvation for our neighbor, even our enemies. Indeed, if we do not understand truth or love, we will struggle to know Jesus let alone share Him with others. - Fr Booth