

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Sept 28th/Sept 29th 2019: Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Dedication of St Michael (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 Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 29th to October 5th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Anna Mahan from October 6th until October 12th.

DINNER DANCE: We will have a dinner dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, September 28th following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Dinner will be provided, and it will consist of Louisiana stewed chicken and rice. All are invited to dine and dance.

PRIEST RETREAT: The priests of the diocese will be on retreat next week. There will be no morning Masses on Tuesday, October 1st through Thursday, October 3rd.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on October 4th 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 October 5th. 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.

ROSARY FOR LIFE & VOCATIONS: Bishop Baker will lead the annual Diocesan Rosary for Life and Vocations at the Lourdes Grotto on the grounds of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville on Sunday, October 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Joyful Mysteries will be prayed for the cause of life, and the Luminous Mysteries will be prayed for vocations. The event will close with Benediction. Bring the family and enjoy this beautiful setting while joining the bishop in prayer for these critical intentions.

RED MASS: The Diocese of Birmingham and the Catholic Lawyers of the St Thomas More Society cordially invite all judges, lawyers, law students, legal related professionals, and the public they serve to the annual Red Mass on Thursday, October 24th at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul. A reception for all in attendance will follow in the Family Life Center.

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: 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Combine your faith and career at EWTN. They are searching to fill the following positions: Groundskeeper, IT support technician, viewer services representative, customer service representative. Information on job requirements can be found at www.ewtn.com. Please email cover letter, salary requirements & resume to humanresources@ewtn.com

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$4290 and \$125 were collected for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

Sat, Sep 28:	4:00 p.m.	† Donald Nettleman (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Sep 29:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Claire Matthews (by Nana & Papa Juneau)
Mon, Sep 30		† Fr Eugene O'Connor
Tues, Oct 1:		Priest Retreat – No Mass
Wed, Oct 2:		Priest Retreat – No Mass
Thur, Oct 3:		Priest Retreat – No Mass
Fri, Oct 4:	*8:30 a.m.	† Fr Lambert Greenan, OP
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for the Clemens Family (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Oct 5:	8:30 a.m.	† Floyd Steiner (by Allan Bull)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Lee Dinan (by Bill & Marian Dinan)
Sun, Oct 6:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Nicole Hernandez (by Sarah Catherine Rumore)

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, Vinita Kelley, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Sylvia McCarrick, 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.	27 th Sunday of Ordinary. Time	Hab 1:2-3,2:2-4, 2Tim 1:6-8,13-14, Lk 17:5-10
9:00 a.m.	27 th Sunday of Ordinary. Time	Hab 1:2-3,2:2-4, 2Tim 1:6-8,13-14, Lk 17:5-10
10:45 a.m.	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46

Beauty and the Beast

Nature is chock full of beauty. Fawns. Sunsets. Waterfalls. Clouds. Forests. Flowers. The list could go seemingly forever. All manner of beauty surrounds us and it so often goes unnoticed. Yet we live in a fallen world, a world besmirched and corrupted by sin. Nature, not just mankind, suffers because of sin: *“Cursed is the ground because of you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field”* (Gen 3:17-18). Likewise, St Paul testifies that *“creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God”* (Rom 8:19-21). Thus, as beautiful as nature is, sin has tarnished that beauty. It is quite unlikely that we could accurately imagine nature’s original beauty had Adam, Eve, and we ourselves not sullied it through our various sins.

The holy angels, however, are utterly untouched by the holy stain of sin. They themselves chose not to sin and since they are not part of the fallen physical world we inhabit they remain unblemished from the sins of man. Angels are as pristine as they were when God created them. Being pure spirits, they are beyond our physical senses, but their purity would be manifest if we were able to see, hear, or touch them. Thus, they are more than likely indescribably beautiful. The Biblical descriptions of angels certainly convey a sense of terrible awe, a beauty that *“eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart,”* a beauty that stems from their love of God (1Cor 2:9). The good angels’ love of God is pure and their beauty would be pure be as well.

If the good angels are indescribably pure and beautiful, what must the fallen angels be? As indescribable as the beauty of the good angels must be, the horridness of the demons would be equally indescribable if we were able to perceive them with our physical senses. Their wretched ugliness would probably utterly overwhelm us and we certainly would not want to be in their presence or make their acquaintance if we had a choice. We certainly would not trust them, follow them, or fall for their wiles if we could see the fallen angels with spiritual eyes.

Which brings us to us. How spiritually beautiful is the soul of a newly baptized baby. Born into slavery to sin they are liberated as adopted sons and daughters of God through baptism. However, no baptized baby would have the intrinsic beauty of a good angel because, like everything in the physical world, he or she carries the scars of original sin which make us prone to sin through the abuse of our intellects and wills. Thus, even spiritually beautiful baptized babies that die without having personally committed a sin must still rise with an even more spiritually beautiful transformed body: *“For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality”* (1Cor 15:52-53).

However, how spiritually ugly is the soul of the unrepentant sinner? It is likely to be so ugly that only a demon could find anything attractive within the soul of one that willfully and knowingly sins without remorse or amendment. But it was revealed to St Catherine of Sienna that some sins are so ‘disagreeable to the demons, not because evil displeases them and they find pleasure in good, but because their nature is angelic and thus is repulsed upon seeing such an enormous sin being committed.’ In other words, some sins are so foul their ugliness transcends the capacity of even the demons to stomach.

Is that how we see sin? Or are we much more complacent and even comfortable with sin? Would we persist in our sins if we could see them through spiritual eyes? Do the sins in our lives, the sins in the lives of others, and the sins promoted by our sick culture go as easily unnoticed as the natural beauty that surrounds us? Indeed, we should be repulsed by the ugliness of sin and drawn to the beauty of fidelity to the way of life marked out for us by God. Can we doubt that the way of increasing spiritual beauty leads infallibly toward God and the way of spiritual ugliness leads away from Him? - Fr Booth