

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 21st/December 22nd 2019: Fourth Sunday of Advent



**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 Robert C. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 22nd to December 28th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of John Schauer, Jr. from December 29th until January 4th.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local communality. Please bring the gift items back with the angel tag attached by this Sunday, December 22nd.

MASS & MARCH FOR LIFE: Bishop Baker will celebrate a Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St Paul on Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 a.m. Following the Mass, there will be a peaceful and prayerful rally and march at Brother Bryan Park at 10:45 a.m. Please come and speak out on behalf of innocent babies who can't speak for themselves against the culture of death.

ST ROSE OPEN HOUSE: The Saint Rose Academy is offering an open house for students entering 3-year-old kindergarten to 8th grade. The open house will take place on Sunday, January 12th, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The teachers, staff and administrators will all be available to answer your questions about our curriculum, and tours of our campus will be provided. St Rose Academy is located at 1401 22nd Street S., Birmingham, AL 35205. If you have questions, please call (205) 933-0549. Their website is www.strosebhm.org.

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.

2019 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve).

TENTATIVE 2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: Sunday, January 12th (Holy Family), Sunday, February 2nd (Purification of the BVM); 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 \$5172 and \$150 were collected for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tues, Dec 24:	8:30 a.m.	Vigil Mass of Christmas in Latin
	3:30 p.m.	Carols
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass in English
	7:30 p.m.	Carols
	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve High Mass in Latin
Wed, Dec 25:	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass in English
	10:45 a.m.	Christmas Day Low Mass in Latin

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

Sat, Dec 21:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Richard Juneau (by the Matthews Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Julia Bryant (by Marian Dinan)
Sun, Dec 22:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for the Pohorelsky Family (by Danny & Judy Rohling)
Mon, Dec 23	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Dec 24:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Scott Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Jeremy Noblitt (by Ginny Daniel)
	8:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Stephen Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Dec 25:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Vinita Kelley (by Alan & Pam Olson)
Thur, Dec 26:	*8:30 a.m.	† Fr Eugene O'Connor
Fri, Dec 27:	*7:00 a.m.	† Evelyn Smithson (by Alan & Pam Olson)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Fr Lambert Greenan, OP
Sat, Dec 28:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Lee Dinan (by Marian Dinan)
Sun, Dec 29:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Dominic Rumore (by Danny & Judy Rohling)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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., Christopher Chism, Anthony Timpa, 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, Anna Marie Madison, 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.	Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6,12-14, Col 3:12-21, Mt 2:13-15,19-23
9:00 a.m.	Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6,12-14, Col 3:12-21, Mt 2:13-15,19-23
10:45 a.m.	Sunday in the Octave of the Nativity	Gal 4:1-7, Lk 2:33-40

Our Next Bishop

So, what do we know about the process that will lead to the naming of our next bishop. We ought to know that most of the rumors going around are utterly false and thoroughly unworthy of our attention. Any rumor that we hear of who or when is almost certainly false because those who are truly in the know can't reveal what they know. To do so is to violate a pontifical secret, which carries a penalty of automatic excommunication. Surely anyone entrusted with such information would be loath to put his soul at risk, especially for the sake of spreading rumors.

In any case, what do we really know? First, at the Eucharistic Congress back in late June, the papal nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, was impressed with our diocese and had a better appreciation that this is a more complex diocese than our small Catholic population might otherwise suggest. He informed the bishop that he was going to recommend to the pope that the next bishop be selected so that there will be continuity. What the nuncio, a key figure in the selection of our next bishop, was saying is that things are going well here in our diocese and there is no need for a significant or radical change in direction. While the nuncio does not have the final say in the selection of our next bishop, his opinion does carry significant weight.

Secondly, the nuncio's assessment of the state of the diocese was implicitly confirmed by the pope's response to Bishop Baker's resignation letter. Upon turning 75-years old back in early June, the bishop was required – like all bishops – to offer to resign and enter into retirement. The pope chose not to accept Bishop Baker's resignation and he was asked to continue to function as the Bishop of Birmingham until his replacement is installed. Had the pope chosen to accept his resignation and specify an administrator or let the priest council elect one, that would have been a signal that things are not going well here or that things are perceived as not going well. What it means that things are or are not going well is pretty nebulous and largely subjective. Likewise, perception is not always reality. A case in point might well be the resignation of Bishop Foley in 2005. Bishop Foley's resignation was accepted for all intents and purposes immediately. It is possible that the Vatican and/or the nuncio perceived that there were significant problems in the diocese. This perception might stem from the controversy that surrounded the banning of all priests in the diocese from saying Mass *ad orientem*. Or it might not. In any case, had things been perceived as being really bad, today or in 2005, the pope would have specified his own priest or bishop to act as administrator.

Third, this fall Bishop Baker heard from the nuncio that he was still going to recommend continuity in the selection of Birmingham's next bishop. Thus, the positive perception was intact and nothing significant had changed since late June. The nuncio's statement also implied that the process for selecting Bishop Baker's replacement had not yet begun.

Fourth, at the bishop's *ad limina* visit with the pope, somewhat more information was revealed. The *ad limina* visit is when a bishop must personally make an account of his shepherding of his diocese to the pope. These visits typically occur every five years. At this meeting, which occurred in late November, the bishop was told that the Vatican still had not taken up the process of replacing him. They indicated that the process wouldn't even start until after Christmas. In 'Vatican-speak' after Christmas might mean December 26th, July 26th, or even December 26th, 2020. They have a very different sense of urgency than we Americans do.

Fifth, our diocese is such that they will likely choose an existing bishop over the idea of naming someone who is currently a priest. There are several factors that make Birmingham less desirable as a starter diocese for a newly consecrated bishop, such as having a significant number of monasteries and religious groups in the diocese, having EWTN here, and several other issues that would suggest an experienced bishop would be most suitable. Indeed, of the four bishops we have had since our inception in 1969 – Bishops Vath, Boland, Foley, and Baker – all but Bishop Boland were bishops prior to being assigned to our diocese.

- Fr Booth