

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 28th/December 29th 2019: Holy Family (English)

Sunday in the Octave of the Nativity (Latin)



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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 John Schauer, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from December 29th to January 4th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert C. Bryant from January 5th until January 11th.

JANUARY 1ST: Wednesday, January 1st is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God (English) and the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (Latin), is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be an English Mass at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31st and an English Mass at 9:00 a.m. and a Latin Mass at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, January 1st.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on January 3rd 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 January 4th. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$7,378 and \$160 were collected for the Preservation Fund. The Christmas collection was \$10,897 and \$1,280 for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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

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)
Mon, Dec 30	*8:30 a.m.	† Peter Hensel (by Judith Hensel)
Tues, Dec 31:	*8:30 a.m.	† Marie Biri (by the Juneau Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Jeremy Noblitt (by Matthews Family)
Wed, Jan 1:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Joseph Patrick Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Jan 2:	*8:30 a.m.	† Fr Camillus Blazak
Fri, Jan 3:	*8:30 a.m.	† Fr Lambert Greenan, OP
	6:30 p.m.	† Agnes Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Jan 4:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Sharyn Tambunan (by Mary Jimenez)
	4:00 p.m.	† Mary Virginia Maple (by James & Nida Hammond)
Sun, Jan 5:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Catherine Hahn (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. Epiphany	Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12
9:00 a.m. Epiphany	Isa 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3,5-6, Mt 2:1-12
10:45 a.m. Holy Name of Jesus	Acts 4:8-12, Lk 2:21

The Family

One of the things a culture provides is a way of looking at the world around us. We Americans look at things differently than Asians, Africans, and Europeans. For example, our first inclination for going somewhere is by car, while most of the world sees walking as the primary way of going from place to place. Some parts of the world would consider public transportation as much more natural than driving while we have public transportation in many cities that goes largely unused. In Japan, they have people to push the people into the subway car, but here there is plenty of room.

To be jammed into a subway car like sardines with no personal space is unthinkable to us while it is perfectly natural for the Japanese. Likewise, it is inconceivable to think of oneself first in many cultures where it seems to be the way that we Americans tend to think. We very much are caught up in ourselves. This is a tendency that does not serve us very well. This tendency gets in the way of us learning to love one another. We have a strong tendency to want to be loved but we are not as keen on loving in return. Are we worse people than others throughout the world? No. Are we somehow defective? No. The problem lies more with the attitudes we receive from our culture, especially with regard to the family.

For us, the basic social unit is the individual when in reality it is the family. The family is the true human social unit. The family is where we learn to live in our society, and it is the family where we learn to love. Without families, we do not learn how to function as well in our society as we should and without strong and functional families we do not learn how to love in a mature way.

All of us as small children naturally are very needy. Kids need to be fed, dressed, and hauled around by mom and dad. Therefore, it should not surprise us that a child tends to have a very needy love. While not incapable of loving others, they are more prone to receive than to give. Later on, we develop friendships and relationships with siblings and relatives. Here we begin to love as equals, we enter into give-and-take relationships. Later, the love between equals transcends the give-and-take of friendship and kinship when marriage joins husband and wife in a one-flesh union. Now it is no longer give and take but both giving 100%. Sacrifice for the other becomes a regular aspect of life and it does not breed resentment.

When children come, however, it is then that the parents begin to give more than 100% and sacrifice much for their kids. It is then that we begin to love unconditionally, it is then we begin to love as God loves us. But when the family is disrupted, when the family is not protected in society, when families are prone to fall apart too easily, this progression of love is also disrupted. The school of love that is the family – or what the family ought to be – ceases to function well and we are more likely to favor a more selfish or even a more childish love.

So is it any wonder that Jesus came into this world in the context of a family? He could have created a body for Himself from nothing. He could have taken a body from someone else since our bodies are ultimately His. He could have even been born with a fully developed psyche, mind, intellect, and will. But He chose to be born of Mary and to develop naturally in a family environment.

Thus, Jesus – true God and true man – depended upon two of His own creatures as a helpless infant. As a boy He submitted to the parental authority of Mary and Joseph even though they owed Him homage and obedience as God. Jesus developed relationships with neighbors, friends, and His cousins as if He was an equal. All of this happened within the Holy Family.

Humanly speaking, this family environment prepared Jesus for the ultimate and most profound sacrifice of love ever made in the history of mankind. Totally innocent, He offered His life for us who are hardly innocent. So it should not surprise us that our families prepare us to love. And it should not surprise us that when our culture has disdain for the family, when our society exalts the individual over the family, that we tend to have an underdeveloped capacity for love. Therefore, let us hold the family in high esteem. Jesus did so, and therefore we should too.

- Fr Booth