

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**February 1st/February 2nd 2019: Presentation of the Lord (English)
Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Mary and Bill Dinan, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from February 2nd to February 8th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Gary Wolter from February 9th until February 15th.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on February 7th 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 SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

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

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS for 2019 have been mailed.

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

TENTATIVE 2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$5591, \$1130 were collected for the Preservation Fund, and \$676 were collected for the Church in Latin America.

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 1:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Rebecca Fernandes (by the Rumore Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Vinita Kelley & Patricia Durward (by the Durward Family)
Sun, Feb 2:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Tony Baggiano (by the Rumore Family)
Mon, Feb 3	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Ryan Gagnon & Family (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Feb 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Hannah Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)
Wed, Feb 5:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Emily Williams (by the Rumore Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Carolyn Sertell (by Susan Sertell)
Thur, Feb 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mother Louise Marie SsEW
Fri, Feb 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Don Williams (by Hahn Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Private Intention
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)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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., 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, 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. Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 58:7-10, 1Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16
9:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 58:7-10, 1Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16
10:45 a.m. Septuagesima	1Cor 9:24-10:5, Mt 20:1-16

Perspective

It is all too easy to lose sight of things. To some, a lost cell phone is an existential emergency, an apocalyptic sign, and a cause for unmitigated panic. In reality, it is an inconvenience to one degree or another and might represent the loss of a few hundred dollars. In the overall scheme of things, it is not the end of the world. It only feels that way.

We can look at the coronavirus in much the same way. Many people are beginning to panic and fear for their lives. In a certain way, this is a natural response to an epidemic. We can't fight diseases like we might fight crime or war with another country. Crime and war represent finite and visible enemies. They are well-understood aspects of the human condition. Every generation has to confront and endure both crime and war. An epidemic, on the other hand, is not something easily fought. Like terrorism, it strikes indiscriminately and seems to lurk hidden in the shadows ready to strike. It is invisible, possibly waiting to be contracted by random coughs and sneezes, possibly coming into our lives from contact with a handrail or a doorknob. It is not like the sneeze of an allergy sufferer and the sneeze of someone with coronavirus can be distinguished with any certainty at all. Nor can we look at a doorknob and tell that it is or is not covered with the virus.

One thing we don't like is that there is no vaccine for this disease and there may never be one that is effective. Getting the flu shot, which may work well one year and not at all the next, gives us a sense of protection, that we have been proactive in protecting ourselves whether or not there is any protection provided by this year's vaccine. Likewise, we are much less prone to embrace measures aimed at curbing the spread of a disease. The greatest example of this is AIDS, which could have been more or less wiped out in the course of a few years if society and individuals had the stomach for truly stemming the spread of this very fatal disease. In the first five years after the disease was recognized, over 90% of all cases were attributable to sinful lifestyle choices and almost all of the rest of the cases were indirectly caused by those sinful lifestyle choices. Less than 1.5% of the cases were due to blood transfusions from AIDS-tainted blood donations. Even though getting AIDS from blood transfusions was rare, this is exactly where the preventative efforts were focused. It made people feel better so that the average individual had peace of mind, but it really did not address the larger problem at all.

With regard to coronavirus, we will find some comfort in the measures taken in China. We will tell ourselves that screenings at airports might keep the disease from spreading. But if we had an overseas vacation planned, how would we react if our flights were canceled by the airline or prohibited by the government? If we had tickets to the Super Bowl, would we understand if the CDC issued an edict preventing fans from entering the stadium lest the concentration of 65,000 people in close proximity to one another aided in the spread of the coronavirus? Would we be content to have spent the better part of \$10,000 to watch this year's game of the century in person only to have to watch on it TV? Modifying our lives, at either great or small cost, is becoming less and less a tolerable solution. Yes, others can make sacrifices, but not so much for us.

As scary as coronavirus is, it does not really deserve the fear we assign to it, at least not yet. Thus far something like 11,300 people have been infected and 259 have died worldwide. To put it in perspective, for the 2017-2018 flu season, CDC statistics show about 65 million Americans contracted the flu resulting in about 61,000 deaths. Coronavirus has a long way to go to match those numbers.

Indeed, perspective is everything. We are accustomed to the flu but not to coronavirus, so coronavirus causes fear. We can be even more accustomed to some sins, such as gossip or coveting, and much, much less with sins like adultery or idolatry, but that does not mean that gossip or coveting are any less deadly spiritually than sins we perceive as far more serious. Truly, if we die physically from flu or coronavirus, we are just as dead. If we kill our relationship with God by gossiping or murdering, we are still spiritually dead. Thus, we should not fear just the most extreme sins given that we can be equally harmed by the more familiar and mundane sins.

- Fr Booth