

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**February 15th/February 16th 2019: Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Sexagesima Sunday (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 Edward Von Hagel, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 16th to February 22nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Howard Von Hagel from February 23rd until February 29th.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

DINNER DANCE: We will have a dinner dance in the Parish Hall next Saturday, February 22nd following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Dinner will be provided, but drinks and desserts will be potluck. All are invited to dine and dance.

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

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN: The Sister Servants of the Eternal Word are hosting a discernment retreat for women from age 18 to 30. The retreat will be held at Casa Maria Retreat Center in Irondale from Wednesday, March 18th through Sunday, March 22nd. Any interested women should contact the Sister Servants at vocations@sisterservants.com or (205) 317-8787.

TENTATIVE 2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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 \$4683 and \$500 were collected for the Preservation Fund.

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 15:	8:30 a.m.	† Robert Trussell (by the Rumore Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Feb 16:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Alicia Sampedro (by George & Madeline Sampedro)
Mon, Feb 17	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Cameron Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Feb 18:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Brennen Martignoni (by the Gagnon Family)
Wed, Feb 19:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Lori Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Carolyn Sertell (by Susan Sertell)
Thur, Feb 20:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mother Louise Marie SsEW
Fri, Feb 21:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Michael Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Feb 22:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Msgr Paul Rohling (by Marian & Bill Dinan)
Sun, Feb 23:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention Aric Pohorelsky (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Lee Gaissert, 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., 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. Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	Lev 19:1-2,17-18, 1Cor 3:16-23, Mt 5:38-48
9:00 a.m. Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	Lev 19:1-2,17-18, 1Cor 3:16-23, Mt 5:38-48
10:45 a.m. Quinquagesima	1Cor 13:1-13, Lk 18:31-43

Are We Up To It?

So what if we suddenly find ourselves under the thumb of a totalitarian regime? We might first respond that this could never happen in America. Maybe. Maybe not. In many ways it seems farfetched. However, did we not enslave millions of people over the course of nearly 250 years? Did we not forcibly incarcerate over 100,000 people in concentration camps, most of whom were American citizens of Japanese ancestry, during World War II? Were we not a model of genetic hygiene for the Nazis, who simply took what we were doing to protect the gene pool (such as forced sterilizations of the mentally ill, handicapped, and 'morally unfit') to an immoral and illogical conclusion? Wasn't Planned Parenthood founded with the explicit purpose of solving the race and poverty issues by contracepting, sterilizing, and aborting non-caucasians and the poor out of existence?

Generally I am no detractor of our country – it is the greatest country the world has ever known – but an honest assessment of our history reveals a number of unpleasant and disturbing truths. Most unnerving of all is our capacity for such violations of natural law and human dignity. Every nation and every people have had this capacity for organized and even legalized evil leading to the oppression of our fellow man. No amount of education, no number of laws enacted, no amount of wishful thinking will eliminate this capacity for evil because it is imprinted in our fallen human nature. Original Sin makes seemingly decent capable of profound evils. Given what is happening today it is impossible to suggest otherwise.

An example of evil totalitarian thinking comes from one of our own state politicians. A state representative from Birmingham authored a bill last week that would require all men in Alabama to undergo a vasectomy within one month of their 50th birthdays or the birth of their third biological child, whichever comes first. The genesis of this bill comes from opposition to the near total ban on abortions passed last year but was blocked from going into effect by the courts. The forced vasectomy bill appears to be a symbolic action, a protest of sorts, against the abortion ban. Maybe. Maybe not. A more fundamental question lies in whether or not this bill would ever be debated and voted upon. How many of our state representatives would be in favor of such a draconian measure? The number might be surprising. But this should not be surprising given that the one-child policy in China is regarded as a good thing by many even though it is implemented through forced abortions and sterilizations.

Do a majority of people believe that the government has a right to impose limits on fertility? Do a majority of people believe that the government can force sterilization? Hard to say. But we might get a sense of the appetite people have for draconian measures if the coronavirus begins to become a global epidemic. Legal and human rights could easily be trampled upon in the name of the public interest. One example might be the total ban on church attendance in the name of stemming the spread of disease. It is one thing to make a personal prudential decision based on many factors, or for a local bishop to absolve vulnerable people from the Sunday obligation, but to outright ban acts of worship is a step towards totalitarianism. After all, who is to say what constitutes the public interest? Once our God-given rights are set aside in the name of the public interest, couldn't the government go even further, perhaps requiring that confessions be recorded or requiring priests to report confessed crimes? Couldn't the government insist that Church teaching be adapted to embrace LGBBQ issues? Or perhaps the state might insist on editing the Scriptures to conform to political doctrine? Or that the state would insist on approving every homily, or even providing a mandatory homily of their own, all in the name of the public interest?

Many peoples have suffered at the hands of totalitarianism. If it comes our way, are we up to it or will we bend to the will of mere men? If we are faithful to God no matter what, this will strengthen the Church. The early Church suffered greatly but it also persevered such that the faith spread despite persecution. Other cases, however, where believers surrendered to tyranny resulted in the death or near death of the faith. It all boils down to this: do we fear and respect God more than we fear and respect the government? If not, we are on the path to surrender, an unhappy surrender.

- Fr Booth