

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 29th/March 1st 2019: First Sunday of Lent



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 March 1st to March 7th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Crawford Mabee from March 8th until March 14th.

REST IN PEACE: Audra Wilson, grandmother of Steven Katona, passed away on February 19th. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be an emergency second collection next weekend for Catholic schools. Several are facing closure due to a lack of available scholarships.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. next Friday.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on March 6th at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction, and following Stations, 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 March 7th. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT #1: This year we will collect various non-perishable items for the men in the Cenacolo addiction recovery center in Hanceville. For the second Sunday of Lent, we will collect cooking & baking goods, such as oil, sugar, flour, tomato paste, etc.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT #2: For Lent we will collect canned goods for the homeless that will be distributed by the Franciscans. Please make sure the cans have a pull-top so using a can opener will not be necessary.

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 \$5922 and \$200 were collected for the Preservation Fund.

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 at Casa Maria 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.

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 29:	4:00 p.m.	† Dixie Joe Sullivan (by Daniel Meadows)
Sun, Mar 1:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention Margaret Mary Hahn (by the Clemens Family)
Mon, Mar 2	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Blaise Hahn (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Mar 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Thomas Rumore (by the Gagnon Family)
Wed, Mar 4:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Bill Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Martin Sertell (by Susan Sertell)
Thur, Mar 5:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mother Louise Marie SsEW
Fri, Mar 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Don Williams (by the Rumore Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for John Morgan (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Mar 7:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Joey Thomas Sullivan (by Daniel Meadows)
Sun, Mar 8:	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Rita & Deacon Terry Rumore, Sr. (by the Rumore 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, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 12:1-4, 2Tm 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 12:1-4, 2Tm 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

Lenten Discipline

On Ash Wednesday, we heard Jesus identify three necessary disciplines for His followers: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many people, to some degree or another, see these disciplines as merely optional devotions. Prayer often comes about only when spare time from work, family, fixing and maintaining the house, football games, badminton games, face-paging, twittering, emailing, napping, shopping, etc. presents itself. We say we have little or no time for prayer, but most of us have no problem finding time for three or more meals a day, time to check our email, and so forth. Fasting happens much less often than prayer. Many people have concluded that the 'modern' Christian does not need to fast at all. But Jesus never said 'If you fast' but He did say "*When you fast*" (Mt 6:16) and "*The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast*" (Mt 9:15). Thus, fasting is not an option but a duty. Almsgiving suffers a similar lack of attention. We actually do better here, especially in response to a crisis or a natural disaster, than we do with prayer and fasting, but we could do more. In other words, we have become spiritually soft.

But why does Jesus especially single out prayer, fasting, and almsgiving? Isn't faith, animated by love of God and neighbor, enough? Well, is our faith strong enough? Couldn't it be stronger? What about our hope, couldn't it stand to grow as well? Certainly very few of us, if any, can claim that we couldn't possibly love God and neighbor more than we do at the moment. But how do prayer, fasting, and almsgiving figure into growing in faith, hope and love?

First of all, prayer is an act of faith. We are communicating with God, whom we cannot hear with our ears or see with our eyes. Even our imaginations fall short of comprehending God in any significant way. Nonetheless, in faith we pray to Him knowing not only that He exists, but also knowing that He hears us and answers our prayers in His way and on His schedule according to His will. Prayer usurps the tyranny of the modern world; it focuses us away from the passing things of here and now to the eternal. Prayer brings about a self-mastery of our hearts and minds as well as our intellects and our wills, so that we don't act like lower forms of life merely responding to the various stimuli of the outside world. A strong prayer life is a sign of mastering our higher and spiritual selves.

Mastering our higher and spiritual selves is not enough. We are more than our minds and our memories. We also have to master our lower, bodily dimension. Here is where fasting comes in. In fasting we seek to lay hold of our bodily appetites so that we can choose to live with our intellects and wills in control of what we say and do. Indeed, our bodies can be tyrants, making excessive demands for food, drink, comfort, leisure, sleep, and various other legitimate and illicit appetites. By gaining self-mastery over our appetite for food, one of our strongest and most basic appetites, by dictating to our bodies what, where, when, and how much we eat, we stand a much better chance of our intellects and wills taming the other bodily appetites that otherwise could have the power to control our actions. Indeed, left to themselves, our bodies will be drawn to eat, drink, and be merry as if there is no tomorrow. Knowing that there is certainly a tomorrow, usually many tomorrows, we should be able to curb those appetites accordingly. It is the virtue of hope that tells us that we need to order our bodily appetites so as to obtain those many tomorrows and ultimately to obtain eternity in heaven.

Finally, almsgiving regulates our relationship with material goods. Fear of going without tends to make us obtain stuff that we really don't need and amass them in excessive quantities. It is love that drives out fear (1Jn 4:18). If out of love we give from our excess to those who are in need we will tame that fear of being in need. Indeed, choosing to live moderate and sober lives that leave room for almsgiving will not only help us grow in love, it also helps us find peace that no possession can deliver.

Jesus wants us to gain mastery over our inner selves through prayer, to gain mastery over our bodily selves by fasting, and gain mastery over our possessions so that we focus more and more on living in this world so as to obtain eternal life. If prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help orient us toward heaven, what Christian would shy away from these essential disciplines?

- Fr Booth