

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 25th/July 26th 2020: 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

8th Sunday after Pentecost (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: 7:30 a.m. and 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: [See Below](#)

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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE, MASS & DEVOTIONS: We have returned to an approximation of our normal weekend schedule with Mass inside the Church. We will have a 4:00 p.m. Saturday English Mass, a 9:00 a.m. Sunday English Mass, a 10:45 a.m. Sunday Latin Mass, and an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30 a.m. The additional Latin Mass is intended to aid in the social distancing, **which is the responsibility of those attending Mass.** Please be considerate. This additional Mass will continue as long as social distancing is necessary.

COVID-19 RESPONSE, CONFESSIONS: Until further notice, confessions will be done in the Church parking lot with Fr Booth in his car. Those wishing to confess can walk up individually maintaining a six-foot distance. Confessions will be offered at 3:30-3:55 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday at 7:00-7:25 a.m., 8:30-8:55 a.m., and 10:15-10:40 a.m.

REVISED DISPENSATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: Per Bishop Raica, all Roman Catholics who reside in the diocese are dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation through September 6th. No one, especially the vulnerable, should feel obliged to attend Mass.

A REMINDER FROM BISHOP RAICA: Those individuals who have a fever, feel sick, are in a high-risk group (e.g., immuno-compromised or having another serious underlying health condition), are of a more advanced age, or who live with someone in one of these categories, are urged to avail themselves of the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass that I recently renewed for all Roman Catholics living in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama.

REMINDER FROM FR BOOTH: If you have Covid symptoms, *DO NOT COME TO MASS!*

CHANGES TO THE MASS: We will forgo the distribution of the Precious Blood, reception of which is ordinarily optional, and the sign of peace, the omission of which is also optional.

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 Eugene Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 26th to August 1st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen Schauer from August 2nd until August 8th.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on August 1st. 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. Again, due to COVID, there will not be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

HOMESCHOOL MASS: All Catholic Homeschoolers are invited to a Beginning of the Year Mass at the Cathedral of St Paul on Thursday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Susan Fay esfay11@gmail.com

MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2021, 2022, and 2023 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$5257 and \$120 was offered for the Preservation Fund. Please feel free to mail your contributions in or save them up for when things return to normal.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Charles Deering, Doug Hess, Matthew Gubenski, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Andrew Vickery, John Paul Stepnowski, and Collins Hess. Please pray for more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: August 9th (10th Sunday after Pentecost); August 30th (13th Sunday after Pentecost); September 13th (15th Sunday after Pentecost); September 27th (17th Sunday after Pentecost); October 4th (18th Sunday after Pentecost); October 11th (19th Sunday after Pentecost); October 25th (Christ the King); Sunday, November 1st (All Saints); November 29th (1st Sunday of Advent); Tuesday, Tuesday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception); December 13th (3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday); Christmas.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Jul 25: 4:00 p.m. † Shack Pruitt (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Jul 26: 7:30 a.m. † Briley Shirah (by the Rumore Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Bob Grundhoeffer (by the Rumore Family)
Mon, Jul 20: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ashley Hughes (by the Duvall Family)
Tues, Jul 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jessica Headrick (by Jillian Wernke)
Wed, Jul 22: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Samantha Headrick (by Jillian Wernke)
*8:30 a.m. † Susan Lavery (by Matthew Leonard)
Thur, Jul 23: *8:30 a.m. † Susan Lavery (by Matthew Leonard)
Fri, Jul 24: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Chuck Deering (by Monica Duvall)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Michelle Smith (by Monica Duvall)
Sat, Jul 25: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Patti Champion (by Monica Duvall)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for David Muck, Sr. (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Jul 26: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Sandra Somarakis (by Monica Duvall)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Margaret Clark (by the Rumore Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Eddie Hunter, Julia Bryant, Mark Corley, Lee Gaissert, Lawrence Brandley, Don Williams, Roseanne Timpa, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Natalie Caraccilo, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Laura Minjares, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Mina Keasler, 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. 18 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:1-3, Rom 8:35,37-39, Mt 14:13-21
7:30 a.m. 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	1Cor 10:6-13, Lk 19:41-47
9:00 a.m. 18 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:1-3, Rom 8:35,37-39, Mt 14:13-21
10:45 a.m. 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	1Cor 10:6-13, Lk 19:41-47

Misplaced and Mismanaged Expectations

When I was in college in the early 1980s, herpes emerged as a growing problem. It was the first incurable social disease. While less severe in terms of the potential symptoms of this class of disease, the incurable aspect of herpes got the attention of many people. It was no longer a matter of getting a penicillin shot and moving on in life, and for many, waiting for the next occasion where another dose of penicillin would become necessary. No, with herpes, it was a lifetime of infection resulting in a lifetime of symptoms. Herpes became known as the ‘gift that keeps on giving.’ This moderated and lowered the temperature of the ‘social climate’ on campus. At the time it seemed like beneficial side effect to me, encouraging people to actually think about what they were doing. About a year later, AIDS became the next social disease to capture the attention and imagination of the public. If being incurable made herpes seem dreadful, the mortality rate of AIDS – basically 100% in the 1980s – truly represented a wake-up call. Both diseases today are treatable but remain incurable.

Forty years ago there was a clamor among many against President Reagan claiming that he could have done something about curing AIDS. He is still blamed by some, but what could a president realistically do? Come up with a cure for a viral disease? It had not been done at the time Reagan was president and it still has not been done. Some viral infections can be treated, some can be managed, and some can be prevented through behavior modification or a vaccine. With AIDS, and herpes as well, the only means of preventing the infection was and still is behavior modification. Were Reagan’s critics really expecting him to do the scientifically impossible (creating a cure for a virus) or to do the legally impossible (of forcibly quarantining all who had been or might have been infected)? Yes, Reagan was guilty of not having done the impossible.

With coronavirus we are seeing a similar pattern of blame emerging. Many are blaming the government, especially President Trump, for not having done the impossible as well. This, of course, is a disingenuous ploy to shift responsibility: petty and shameless politics at its worst. While its policy has been moderated over time, one state required the development of an effective vaccine and what amounts to a cure for Covid before churches and other supposedly nonessential businesses and institutions could be reopened. We may never see an effective vaccine (flu vaccines sort of work, sometimes, and we are still waiting on a AIDS vaccine) and we have yet to cure a single viral infection in the history of mankind, so such impossible expectations are born of utter idiocy or they are yet another ploy from shameful and disingenuous politicians.

Behavior modification seems the only available and reliable means of confronting Covid. Social distancing, proper hand washing, protecting the most vulnerable, refraining from unnecessary activities that might result in exposure, and perhaps wearing masks are the only way of reducing or delaying Covid infections. Total or near total prevention is and will remain impossible. With herpes and AIDS, however, behavior modification could have eliminated these diseases in fairly short order. The spread of both herpes and AIDS stemmed almost exclusively from clearly and utterly immoral behavior. Had people followed God’s ways, specifically remaining chaste until marriage and remaining faithful within marriage, neither herpes or AIDS would have spread in the first place, and once they had spread, they could have been eliminated by embracing or returning to God’s ways.

Embracing or returning to God’s ways is the answer to Covid. While it is true that following the Gospel may not be effective against the natural spread of the Covid virus, turning to God is the Biblical, supernatural prescription against pestilence and plague. Likewise, while Covid might infect any one of us and might take a number of our lives, it cannot touch our souls, it cannot infect or harm our relationship with God. Only sin has that power and we should therefore fear sin more than any viral disease. Herpes, AIDS, Covid, ebola, measles, hepatitis, yellow fever, rabies, or any rabidly stupid or malicious politician can hardly touch our souls or our relationship with God. But God can stem the tide of this pandemic, but how likely is that when we continue to disrespect Him and shun His ways?

- Fr Booth