

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 1<sup>st</sup>/August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020: 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Latin)



1460 Pearson Avenue SW

Birmingham, Alabama 35211

Phone: (205) 785-9840

E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)

Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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:** 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.

**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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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, 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 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 Eileen Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Beverly Grisham from August 9<sup>th</sup> until August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Again, due to COVID, there will not be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** We will have our First Friday English Mass on August 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**HOMESCHOOL MASS:** All Catholic Homeschoolers are invited to a Beginning of the Year Mass at the Cathedral of St Paul on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Susan Fay [esfay11@gmail.com](mailto: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 \$5132 and \$100 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 9<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost); August 30<sup>th</sup> (13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost); September 13<sup>th</sup> (15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost); September 27<sup>th</sup> (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost); October 4<sup>th</sup> (18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost); October 11<sup>th</sup> (19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost); October 25<sup>th</sup> (Christ the King); Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> (All Saints); November 29<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent); Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (Immaculate Conception); December 13<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday); Christmas.

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

Sat, Aug 1:	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, Aug 2:	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)
Mon, Aug 3:	*8:30 a.m.	† Edward Clark (by the Rumore Family)
Tues, Aug 4:	*8:30 a.m.	† Virginia Irwin (by the Rumore Family)
Wed, Aug 5:	*7:00 a.m.	† Arthur Irwin (by the Rumore Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Susan Lavery (by Matthew Leonard)
Thur, Aug 6:	*8:30 a.m.	† Susan Lavery (by Matthew Leonard)
Fri, Aug 7:	*8:30 a.m.	† Patricia Kurant (by the Duvall Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for Terri Erickson (by the Duvall Family)
Sat, Aug 8:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Clement Muck, Sr. (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Aug 9:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Susan Muck (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Michael Renna (by the Duvall Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Robert Brandley, Carol Brandley, 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.	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	1Kgs 19:9,11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Mt 14:22-33
7:30 a.m.	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	1Cor 12:2-11, Lk 18:9-14
9:00 a.m.	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	1Kgs 19:9,11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Mt 14:22-33
10:45 a.m.	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	1Cor 12:2-11, Lk 18:9-14

## *Rising to the Occasion*

Soon, supposedly, we might have a vaccine for Covid. Will we get one soon? Will it work? Who knows. If we do get one and it actually works, it will be an unprecedented achievement. Sadly, however, many are pinning their hopes on such a vaccine. Somehow, a shot in the arm, or perhaps elsewhere, will make everything better. Even if there is some degree of effectiveness in this hurriedly developed vaccine, the likelihood of everything getting better is pretty slim. In the same way, masks will not pan out to be effective nor will the recently suggested adoption of goggles and face shields. It seems to me that this pandemic is more like trying to contend with a hurricane: you either run from it or you stand up to it and ride it out. Neither way is ideal and there will be a price to be paid either way.

It is looking more likely that there won't be a baseball season this year. This is baffling. Aren't these men young and in excellent health and thus quite unlikely to die from Covid? If some do get sick, can't others fill in? How many minor leaguers would jump at the chance to play in the major leagues even if it is only for a few games? Would the flu stop the season from progressing? By not playing, are they admitting that sports don't matter or that baseball does not matter or that the fans do not matter? Even if they don't play, many players will still expect to see all or at least some of their multimillion-dollar salaries. Without games to watch and advertisement revenue, how can they expect a dime? Truly, how do they expect to be playing baseball next year for the same salaries or to play at all if they don't play this year? When the teams fold, the league ceases to be, or the fans move on, what are the players' chances of finding new jobs that pay several million dollars a year? 'Good afternoon, sir. I used to play centerfield for the Mets. Oh, yes, do you want fries with that?' In other words, they would be fools to sit this one out. This applies for all professional sports.

The same goes for Hollywood. People will find their entertainment one way or another, even if it means binge-watching episodes of *Bonanza* or *Seinfeld*. The tiny screen of the smart phone or tablet could certainly supplant the big screen. Yes, Hollywood survived the advent of the TV's small screen, but can it survive without new movies to show on those big, small, or tiny screens? What ever happened to the spirit of 'the show must go on'? Like the baseball player who is not playing, how will an actor get paid for not acting?

One question that might be asked at this point is this: how did we respond to crises in the past? In the earlier pandemics of 1918, 1957, and 1968 we rode them out. Did everything come to a screeching halt? Hardly. Yet normalcy soon ensued. How did we respond to World War II, the greatest threat known to mankind? We did not ride it out: we rose to the occasion. How did we respond to the Cold War, the greatest potential threat known to mankind? Again, we did not just ride it out: instead we rose to the occasion. Did baseball stop in 1918, from 1941-1945, in 1957, or in 1968? Not in the least. When hundreds of players went to fight in the war, baseball rose to the occasion. When many actors entered military service or joined the USO, Hollywood soldiered on.

What did the Church do in 1918, from 1941-1945, in 1957, or in 1968? Yes, Alabama churches closed for the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, but only for two weeks for a virus perhaps 15 to 30 times more deadly than Covid. When priests entered military service, those left on the home front picked up the slack. In the pandemics of 1957 and 1968, the Church persevered.

Today, if the Church ceases to do what the Church is called to do, how is it any different than professional baseball or Hollywood? The Church risks irrelevancy if we continue to act as if a mere virus can prevail where the gates of hell could not. Yes, we must protect the vulnerable. Yes, we must be prudent. But we must also rise to the occasion, especially priests and bishops. While there is no place for flippancy or carelessness, ought not priests behave as if the God they serve, the faith they profess, and the people they shepherd are worth dying for? Is this not a time for all to rise to the occasion by praying and fasting? While history shows that we have a capacity to rise to just about any occasion, do the priests and the people have the appetite to do so today?

- Fr Booth