

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 22nd/August 23rd 2020: 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

12th 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 November 22nd. 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 Glenn L. Varnell, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from August 23rd to August 29th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of John Schauer, Jr. from August 30th until September 5th.

REST IN PEACE: Julia Bryant passed away on August 16th and was laid to rest on August 18th. 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.

2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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, December 8th (Immaculate Conception); December 13th (3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday); Christmas.

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.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$5795 and \$200 was offered for the Preservation Fund. Please feel free to mail your contributions in or save them up for when things return to normal.

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

Sat, Aug 22: 4:00 p.m. † Paul Boyle III (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Aug 23: 7:30 a.m. † Connie Hollis (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Rumore, Sr. (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Aug 24: *8:30 a.m. † Juanita Bello (by Helen Brandley)
Tues, Aug 25: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Pat and Nancy Lynch (the Lynch Family)
Wed, Aug 26: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Eddie Mathews (by the Juneaus)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Dan & Stephanie Burke (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Aug 27: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention Sr. Claire (by the Hahn Family)
Fri, Aug 28: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention Andrew Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Anne Butera (by Cindy Woods)
Sat, Aug 29: 4:00 p.m. † Anne Butera (by Cindy Woods)
Sun, Aug 30: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Valori Clemens (by Paul Philip Clemens)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Jimenez (by Paul Philip Clemens)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Hamp Schauer, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, 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. 22 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Mt 16:21-27
7:30 a.m. 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Gal 3:16-22, Lk 17:11-19
9:00 a.m. 22 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jer 20:7-9, Rom 12:1-2, Mt 16:21-27
10:45 a.m. 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Gal 3:16-22, Lk 17:11-19

Is the Collapse Inevitable?

The increasing levels of godlessness at the personal, institutional, and cultural levels have naturally brought forth increasing lawlessness and sin. That those who supposedly oppose fascism use the very fascist tactics of violence and terror and those supposedly seeking justice increasingly promote their cause through injustice can only be explained by hearts and minds greatly darkened by sin. The more sin reigns, the more evil will ensue. To be clear, however, all of our hearts and minds are darkened by sin to one degree or another. For the man or woman of faith, however, a battle between light and darkness rages: if we let the light of the Gospel work in our lives, the darkness will not have the upper hand. Indeed, through Jesus *“was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”* (Jn 1:4-5). The light prevails even though darkness remains present in our earthly lives.

But without the light of Christ, darkness can have free rein in someone’s life. Evil becomes a way of life that seems natural and even superior to a life of holiness and virtue. The drug dealer scoffs at the plumber or accountant. He can fool himself into thinking that what he is doing is better because he makes more money than someone with a legitimate job and he does not have to work all that hard to obtain that degree of wealth. In some circles, the drug dealer will garner more respect than those who are doctors, lawyers, CPAs, and other professionals. This was also seen in the height of organized crime where the mafioso was a man to be respected, not just because of the threat of violence, but because of the trappings of wealth and power that came from a life of iniquity. Much the same is seen with the South and Central American drug lords.

Does this mean that, given what we are seeing today, that America is in an inexorable and inevitable moral and cultural death spiral? Maybe, maybe not. A death spiral is a distinct possibility and we may not be able to remedy the situation by our own efforts, but that does not mean there is no hope. Nineveh, a thoroughly wicked city, was spared divine destruction by the reluctant preaching of the prophet Jonah. On a cultural level, early Christianity eventually tamed the immoral excesses of the Roman world. Likewise, the examples of personal transformation are numerous. Mary Magdalene put aside her ‘profession.’ The good thief, Dismas, came to his senses in the last minutes of his life. The centurion at the foot of the cross was moved to proclaim *“Truly, this was the Son of God!”* (Mt 27:54).

Saul was once very much like those who style themselves as social justice warriors today. He was doing evil in the name of good to the point that murdering the early followers of Christ seemed good and just to Saul. That is, until Saul literally saw the light on the road to Damascus. In more recent times we see other examples of people seeing the light. Abby Johnson, a clinic director for Planned (un)Parenthood, saw the light and has become a staunch pro-life activist. Norma McCorvey, the woman identified as Jane Roe in the Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*, would later see the light and oppose abortion even though her case was the basis for the unfortunate Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion. Dr. Bernard Nathanson, an architect of the early pro-abortion movement and an abortionist himself, saw the light and opposed the profound injustice he helped foist on this nation.

Millions and millions of others have put aside lives of personal wickedness to embrace the light of Christ. They might have seen promiscuity, corruption, theft, pornography, profanity, deceit, slander, detraction, adultery, covetousness, envy, unforgiveness, hatred, greed, etc. as part of a totally legitimate way of life until their heart and mind were moved to understand otherwise. Indeed, if Saul’s or Bernard Nathanson’s hearts can be touched by the light of Christ, who is to say that those causing evil, violence, and disruption today might not be moved as well? St Paul, aka Saul, would later write that *“where sin increased, grace abounded all the more”* (Rom 5:20). No doubt, given what is happening today and what has been happening in the last five decades, grace has been abounding more and more. In other words, God is doing His part, He continues to shine the light of the Gospel. Our part is to accept those graces and reflect the light of Christ in our lives.

- Fr Booth