

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

September 12th/September 13th 2020: 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

15th Sunday after Pentecost (Latin)



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: 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 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.

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 Tevin Williams, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 13^h to September 19th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from September 20th until September 26th.

REST IN PEACE: Michael Vu, father of Fr Doug Vu, passed away on September 6th and was laid to rest on September 11th. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, September 19th. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Low Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers but no potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

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

2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$8683. 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, Sept 12:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Frances Rooney (by the Duval Family)
Sun, Sept 13:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Kevin Bazzell (by the Duval Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Bryan Jerabek (by the Duval Family)
Mon, Sept 14:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Paris Duval (by Doug & Monica Duval)
Tues, Sept 15:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Joseph Ducote (by the Duval Family)
Wed, Sept 16:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for John Luke Brueggen (by the Duval Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Vileta Luncford (by the Lay Dominicans of Birmingham)
Thur, Sept 17:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Wolbert (by the Sampedros)
Fri, Sept 18:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Therese Martin (by the Juneaus)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Fr Henry Thorsen
Sat, Sept 19:	9:15 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Grace Thompson (by the Juneaus)
	4:00 p.m.	† Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Sept 20:	7:30 a.m.	† Patricia Kurant (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Thellis Williamson (by the Donellan Family)

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, 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.	25 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24,27, Mt 20:1-16
7:30 a.m.	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11
9:00 a.m.	25 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24,27, Mt 20:1-16
10:45 a.m.	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11

A Reliable Compass

One of the things that a boy scout is supposed to master, at least it was the case when I was a kid, is the use of a compass. A compass indicates which way is north. Or at least it is supposed to do so. The compass on my old cellphone and my new cellphone differ quite a bit. Side by side, the phones differ by about 30 degrees. That's a huge discrepancy. To put it in perspective, if two people, each guided by one of those phone compasses, traveled on the same compass heading for 100 miles they would end their journeys 52 miles apart. We might assume that the new phone is right and the old one is wrong, but how can we be sure? It is entirely possible that both are wrong, maybe one is off by 8 degrees while the other is off by 22 degrees. If so, following one might put me 14 miles from my objective while being guided by the other might put me 37 miles from where I wanted to go. To make matters more interesting, I checked a third cellphone compass and it differed from my new cellphone compass by 25 degrees. Three cellphones, three very different ideas of which way is up.

Clearly, using the compass on a cellphone to navigate would seem ill advised. We might be better off just reckoning the direction by our instincts or using the position of the sun and an analog watch as a makeshift compass (yet another boy scout skill). But even if we had a boy-scout-approved, old-fashioned compass we might still be off. This is because the compass senses magnetic north, which actually changes over time, while we generally navigate relative to true north. The difference between true north and magnetic north also depends on where you are. Currently, here in the deep south, the two differ only by a few degrees. However, in the northeast and northwest regions of the country, the difference between magnetic and true north can be as much as 20 degrees. Using a perfectly accurate boy-scout-approved compass in Boston or Seattle, without compensating for the difference between magnetic and true north, could be as bad as using one of my cellphones to navigate.

Without the side-by-side comparison of my phones I would have trusted either one to be fairly accurate. Why not, they are high tech after all. But checking three and getting three different answers is enlightening and a bit shocking. Thankfully, our phones guide us with GPS, not the compass. In any case, what about our moral compasses? Chances are that our sense of moral direction has changed over the years such that what seemed right and just in our teens has been corrected by experience and the wisdom of age. However, it is entirely possible that we have deviated more and more from true 'moral north' over the years, letting repeated sin, human respect, cultural attitudes, indifference, or crass opportunism deflect our moral compasses away from what is truly right and just. Just as true north does not bend to the accuracy or inaccuracy of a cellphone compass, true 'moral north' remains objectively the same no matter how mistaken we were in our youth or how aberrant our moral sensibilities might have become over time.

Indeed, if I gathered a number of cellphones and took the average of what their compasses say north is, would that mean that the average must be closer to true north than what any one compass might indicate? Hardly. True north will always be true north, but cellphone compasses will not always – individually or as a group – reflect the accurate direction of true north. The exact same principle applies to morality. No matter how many people say that one thing is moral while yet another thing is immoral, the truth remains utterly independent of what people think or how many people think it to be so. One's feelings or their degree of sincerity does not figure into what the truth is and what it is not. Yes, we have a basic natural tendency to know right from wrong, but that natural tendency is hardly perfect and it is subject to distortion. Nor are we tremendously faithful in following our own moral compasses. History proves this beyond a doubt.

This is why we need a moral standard outside of ourselves, a standard that remains unwavering, unchanging, dispassionate, and utterly objective. Of course God is that standard, He is the unswerving and steadfast Truth. Considering that a compass points the way to a destination, if our destination is heaven, what other moral compass can there be than the Lord?

- Fr Booth