

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

September 19th/September 20th 2020: 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

16th 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.

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 Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 20th to September 26th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Kedra Curtis from September 27th until October 3rd.

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Catholic Charities letter and a pledge card from the diocese. Our pledge goal this year is \$16,000. All money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese.

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.

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.

2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: 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.

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PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$6225. 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 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)

Mon, Sept 21: *8:30 a.m. † Johnny Cooper (by the Donellan Family)

Tues, Sept 22: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Stephen Rumore (by the Donellan Family)

Wed, Sept 23: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Emerson Hill (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Irwin Family (by the Donellan Family)

Thur, Sept 24: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Danielle Hesley (by the Donellan Family)

Fri, Sept 25: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Louis Roth (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Fr Henry Thorsen

Sat, Sept 26: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)

Sun, Sept 27: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Bill & Judy Donellan (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. 26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32
7:30 a.m. 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46
9:00 a.m. 26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32
10:45 a.m. 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46

Unreliable Compasses

Since last week, I have had the opportunity to compare about ten cellphone compasses side by side. Again, they were all over the map, so to speak. Compared to mine, they differed by five to forty degrees. In one case, knowing which way was actually true north, one phone indicated that north was fifteen degrees to the east and one showed north to be about twenty degrees to the west. It is not clear why these cellphone compasses seem so unreliable, but an issue of some sort clearly exists.

When it comes to our own moral compasses, it is obvious that these also lack a degree of reliability. The human reckoning of moral truth varies greatly, now more than ever. The general loss of religious observance, our fallen and corrupt culture, the erosion of the family, and the continued exaltation of license disguised as liberty have all conspired to throw our moral compasses off course. Even if we remain immune and unstained from these factors, there are many other forces that can influence or even deform our sense of right versus wrong.

Chief among these factors would be fear. Fear causes us to do things we would never do under normal circumstances. Fear can short-circuit our intellect allowing us to commit sin or stop us from doing what is right and just. Out of fear, many people today refrain from witnessing to their faith. Great evangelical opportunities exist in our very midst, but we fear being judged or persecuted for sharing and expressing the Gospel. Actors and musicians lose roles and gigs because of their faith and often feel compelled to remain silent in the moral cesspools that Hollywood and Nashville have become. Someone might marry out of fear or remain single out of fear. Nevertheless, the right thing, the moral course of action, remains irrespective of the presence or magnitude of the fear we might feel.

A 'kissing cousin' of fear is human respect. Human respect often silences us from speaking and doing the truth. Human respect has become such a strong force that many people, including priests and bishops, will compromise or withhold the truth for fear that the truth might hurt someone's feelings. It is as if offending someone or hurting their feelings is the only remaining mortal sin. Human respect has caused Church leaders to water down responses to critical moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia, false expressions of marriage, the central role of faith in the life of individuals and in the public square, promiscuity, and the exorcise of our civil rights to worship and pray inside and outside of our church buildings. Out of human respect, the Church here and abroad has allowed itself to be declared non-essential because of Covid. In many parts of the country, fewer restrictions have been placed on Home Depot, Olive Garden, and Piggly Wiggly than on our houses of worship. Sale of booze was deemed as essential but community worship of God was declared much too risky. Out of human respect, objections from our bishops have been tepid, few, and far between.

Hypocrisy also warps our moral perception. An example of this can be seen in the recent uncivil unrest many cities have suffered. Protesters are allowed to congregate and shout without having to observe any social distancing and face covering mandates. Why? Supposedly because these activities are protected under the Constitution. But the free and unhindered exercise of our religion is not covered under the Constitution? Hardly. Both free speech and the exercise of religion are explicitly protected under the First Amendment. Some will even go so far to say that rioting, vandalism, assaulting innocent bystanders, murdering police officers, and arson are all covered under the First Amendment, but no hint of any of these crimes is suggested in the language of the First Amendment or the Constitution itself. Similarly, many corporations have expressed support, both verbal and financial, for Black Lives Matter, which is hypocritical on many levels. Wanting to signal their corporate virtue, they support a Marxist organization with anti-corporate and anti-capitalist principles, an organization that claims that 'all lives matter' is somehow a racist statement. A hundred years ago Vladimir Lenin would have called such virtue-signaling companies useful idiots, but in a year as crazy as 2020, many people will likely see them as great heroes. How is this possible? Because many people have let fear, human respect, and hypocrisy overwhelm their moral compasses.

- Fr Booth