

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**November 14th/November 15th 2020: 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Resumed 6th Sunday after Epiphany (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 Shack Pruitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from November 15th to November 21st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from November 22nd until November 28th.

PLENARY INDULGENCE: A plenary indulgence may be gained for the souls in purgatory by reciting an Our Father and the Creed in a church or by visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead. This opportunity has been extended for the whole month of November.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, November 21st. 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 Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: For 2021, 1st Communion will be on Sunday, April 18th.

CONFIRMATION DATE: For 2021, Confirmation will be on Thursday, June 3rd.

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.

THANK YOU: Thanks to all who helped fund the Choose Life billboard visible from the northbound lanes of I-65 in the Glenn Iris neighborhood. Through the parish's generosity we funded this billboard for the month of October.

2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: Nov 29th (1st Sunday of Advent); Tuesday, Dec 8th (Immaculate Conception); Dec 13th (3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday); Christmas.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection for last weekend was \$6228 and \$450 was donated to the Preservation Fund.

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

Sat, Nov 14: 4:00 p.m. † Julia Bryant (by Julie Bryant)
Sun, Nov 15: 7:30 a.m. † Julia Bryant (by Lynn Bryant)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Dominic Rumore (by the Juneaus)
Mon, Nov 16: 8:30 a.m. † Julia Bryant (by Jerry Bryant)
Tues, Nov 17: *8:30 a.m. † Julia Bryant (by Jan Joseph)
Wed, Nov 18: *7:00 a.m. † Julia Bryant (by Jan Joseph)
*8:30 a.m. † Frankie Smeraglia (by Virginia Daniel)
Thur, Nov 19: *8:30 a.m. † Gerald Topazi (by Virginia Daniel)
Fri, Nov 20: *7:00 a.m. † Robert Brandley (by Ginny Daniel & Ann Noblitt)
*8:30 a.m. † Juanita Bello (by Ginny Daniel & Ann Noblitt)
Sat, Nov 21: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Lillie Rumore (by the Hahns & Rumores)
4:00 p.m. † Julia Bryant (by Ginny Daniel & Ann Noblitt)
Sun, Nov 22: 7:30 a.m. † Michael Peplowski (by the Jones Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Jennifer Casey (by the Jones Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Avis Booth, Aaron Minjares, 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., 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, Loretta Mara, Lillie Rumore, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Christ the King	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17, 1Cor 15:20-26, 28, Mt 25:31-46
7:30 a.m. 24 th Sunday after Pentecost	Col 1:9-14, Mt 24:15-35
9:00 a.m. Christ the King	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17, 1Cor 15:20-26, 28, Mt 25:31-46
10:45 a.m. 24 th Sunday after Pentecost	Col 1:9-14, Mt 24:15-35

Game Over?

Given that the moral boundaries in many aspects of public life have been transgressed thoroughly or even utterly obliterated, it should not be a surprise that evil has been declared good and that good has been declared evil. As we potentially face more lockdowns of one degree or another, one thing that is almost entirely certain is that Planned Parenthood and similar mass-murder facilities will remain fully open and unhindered by pandemic restrictions but churches will likely face the tightest restrictions on public or even private worship. It is as if the First Amendment has been amended to read ‘Congress shall make no law restricting the establishment of abortion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech for some, or of the press; or the right of the people to assemble for the sake of looting and rioting, and to petition the Government for a redress of real or imagined liberal grievances.’

Given that the departure from decorum, decency, and morality is sanctioned and promoted by our government and the media at various levels, it can be discouraging to say the least. That honesty and justice are teetering more and more on verge of extinction continues to be a gut-punch to many people. That we have irreversibly gone down the road to cultural destruction and chaos at breakneck speed increasingly causes alarm to people of faith. The fact of the matter is that none of this – the departure from a good and moral society and what affect this has on our morale – is hardly an accident. The discouragement on our part is real and it is deliberate on their part. What the forces of evil in our society really want and that they truly need is for us to be discouraged. If we are disheartened and dispirited we will tend to stay on the sidelines and out of the fight.

Indeed, evil cannot triumph over the good because the good is more powerful. In the same way, the truth can readily vanquish falsehood. One might ask, therefore, why falsehood and evil seem to triumph so often and so thoroughly? If truth and goodness are that powerful, how could it be that more and more people embrace more and more lies and vile behavior?

If we understand that goodness and truth come to us from God Himself and that falsehood and evil stem from Satan and his minions, we should be able to discern why goodness and truth are more powerful. If that is so, does the triumph of evil we see today suggest that God is not on our side or that He has forsaken us? Would the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit walk away from people that the Father adopted, the Son suffered and died for, and that the Holy Spirit came to dwell amongst? No, God has not forsaken us, but we have forsaken Him. We have forsaken Him in terms of those who serve and promote causes contrary to the Gospel – such as abortion, same-sex marriage, gender theory, etc. – some of whom profess to be Christians and in those who profess to be Christians but have failed to oppose the evil in our midst. It is as if evil has taken the playing field and those longing for the good have retreated to the sidelines. What team has even won by playing from the sidelines?

As Edmund Burke is credited as saying, ‘The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing,’ we should realize that doing nothing or wallowing in discouragement does not serve the cause of truth and goodness and therefore lamenting from the sidelines does not serve God’s cause. How did we end up with the likes of John Geoghan, Paul Shanley, Marcial Maciel, Rudy Kos, Travis Clark, Michael Bransfield, Theodore McCarrick, and thousands of other demented clerics except that good men, probably many good men, chose to do little or nothing.

It may feel like we are in uncharted territory or in extraordinary times, but the truth remains the truth and good never loses its goodness. So, in light of what is happening today, are we apt to say ‘Game over!’ and retreat to the sidelines or are we going to rise to the occasion proclaiming ‘Game on?’ and take the field? By taking the field, we do not use the tools and weapons of the world – rocks, bricks, slander, violence, etc. – but we live as Christians and as lawful citizens. We might be tempted to surrender or to respond to evil in-kind, but instead we need to be as Christ-like as possible. In fact, the forces of evil would prefer that we surrender, and if not, that we would embrace violence and hatred. - Fr Booth