

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

December 5th/December 6th 2020: Second Sunday of Advent



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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.

UPDATED DISPENSATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: Per Bishop Raica, all Roman Catholics who reside in the diocese are dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation through January 10th. 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 Dominick & Angela Montalbano, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 6th to December 12th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Anna Mahan from December 13th until December 19th.

REST IN PEACE: Avis Booth, mother of Fr Booth, passed away on December 3rd. 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.

REST IN PEACE: Lillie Rumore, grandmother of Charlie Rumore and Catherine Hahn, passed away on December 5th. 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.

FR BOOTH OUT OF TOWN: Fr Booth will be out of town for his mother's funeral from Sunday afternoon, December 6th until Saturday morning December 12th. There will be no daily Masses at Blessed Sacrament.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local communality. Please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached by Sunday, December 20th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be no coffee and donuts following the 9:00 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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE: To facilitate social distancing, we will have an expanded Mass schedule for Christmas. On Christmas Eve, there will be 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. English Masses and an 8:00 p.m. Latin Low Mass. On Christmas Day, there will be a 7:30 a.m. Latin Low Mass, a 9:00 a.m. English Mass, and a 10:45 High Latin Mass.

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

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

Sat, Dec 5:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Anthony Stanley (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Julia Bryant (by Jan & Pete Ransom)
Sun, Dec 6:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Bill & Judy Donellan (by the Donellans)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Eddie Mathews (by Scott Donellan)
Mon, Dec 7:		+++++ <i>No Mass</i> +++++
Tues, Dec 8:		+++++ <i>No Mass</i> +++++
Wed, Dec 9:		+++++ <i>No Mass</i> +++++
Thur, Dec 10:		+++++ <i>No Mass</i> +++++
Fri, Dec 11:		+++++ <i>No Mass</i> +++++
Sat, Dec 12:	4:00 p.m.	† Julia Bryant (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Dec 13:	7:30 a.m.	† Julia Bryant (by Mary & Betty Mason)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Alice Zaucha (by Jonathan & Nicole Zaucha)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Isa 61:1-2,10-11, 1Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
7:30 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28
9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Isa 61:1-2,10-11, 1Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
10:45 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28

The Light

When we look about us, it surely appears like the darkness is advancing. Not only advancing, it is looking more and more like darkness is prevailing over the light. Any number of examples could be cited. Let's take Covid. We were told that it came from a specific wet market in Wuhan, China. We are also told that it came from a bat. Only thing is that the wet market in question sells only seafood, not bats. We are told that Covid-19 is naturally occurring, except those viruses most closely related to it do not and cannot infect humans. Somehow Covid-19 has the exact gene sequence required to infect us but its closest genetic relatives do not. We are told that the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which genetically modifies viruses and who were studying bat viruses, could not be the source of Covid-19. We are told that one or more people probably first got Covid-19 from eating undercooked bat meat. We are currently being told, however, that it is extremely unlikely that we might be infected by eating restaurant or take-out food even if the one who prepared the food is infected. Finally, we are told that China has had only 93,000 cases and only 4,700 deaths nationwide since this all began even though 140,000 ventilators were rushed to the Wuhan province alone. Despite all of this, anyone who questions the origins of Covid-19 and the likely responsibility of the Chinese government is labeled a tinfoil-hat wearing, knuckle-dragging, low-grade moron.

Maybe this virus is naturally occurring within Asian bats. Maybe this virus naturally has the ability to infect humans or is not closely related to other bat viruses that are incapable of infecting men. Maybe the Wuhan Institute of Virology had nothing to do with Covid-19. Maybe the Chinese government overreacted to the crisis by sending so many unnecessary ventilators to Wuhan. Maybe. But the party line on all of this sounds like it was concocted by people who assume that we are all knuckle-dragging, mouth-breathing low-grade morons. This story just does not pass the smell test and is so full of holes that it should be easily debunked.

Why hasn't it been exposed for the fairytale that it is? It would appear that enough people prefer the darkness and wish to keep others in the dark. Surely many government and civilian agencies know or could expose the origins of this epidemic but choose not to do so. The same goes for the media, who at one time had a veritable army of investigative reporters that relentlessly pursued the truth wherever it might be found and wherever it might lead. One wonders if the My Lai Massacre, Abu Graib, Watergate, Whitewater, Iran-Contra, the Keating Five, Love Canal, or the Lewinski Affair would ever have been uncovered and exposed in today's journalistic environment. In fact, it is more likely that real scandals are being overlooked and false ones promoted so long as an agenda is advanced.

Whether or not falsehoods are spewed forth and truths suppressed, it is important to remember that the Gospel remains the same. Speaking of Jesus, who is Truth and Light, the Apostle John wrote that "*What came to be through him 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 1:3-5). The Gospel does not need a free, honest, and unbiased press. The Gospel does not need honest, fair, and transparent elections. The Gospel does not need one party or another in office. The Gospel does not need honest and virtuous governments. And the Gospel does not need a government to guarantee and promote religious freedom.

What the Gospel depends upon is a place to shine in our hearts and minds. A deadly pandemic with a fairytale origin does not change the truth of the Gospel. A corrupt government cannot negate the Gospel. A biased and untrustworthy press has no bearing on the fact that Jesus became one of us, died for us, and conquered death through His resurrection. Progressive fascism or fascistic progressivism cannot stop us from loving God above all things and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

The only way that the Light of Jesus can be extinguished from our hearts and minds is if we surrender to darkness. If this happens, the Light still shines, just not within our heart or our mind. No virus, no dishonest press, no corrupt government, no persecution, nor any worldly force can extinguish the Light even in faithful and loving knuckle-dragging, mouth-breathing, low-grade morons.

- Fr Booth.