

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>/December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020: Third Sunday of Advent**



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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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 Anna Mahan, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from December 13<sup>th</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Catherine and Joseph Kelly from December 19<sup>th</sup> until December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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 next Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**MORNING WITH MARY:** All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 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.

**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 a 7:30 a.m. Latin Low Mass, a 9:00 a.m. English Mass, and a 10:45 High Latin Mass.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection for last weekend was \$8069 and \$2950 was donated to the Preservation Fund.

**2020 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE:** Dec 13<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday); Christmas Day (10:45 a.m.).

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

- 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)  
Mon, Dec 14: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Tom Zaucha (by Jonathan & Nicole Zaucha)  
Tues, Dec 15: \*8:30 a.m. † Julia Bryant (by Carolyn Mickel)  
Wed, Dec 16: \*7:00 a.m. † Patrick Weaver, Jr. (by the Clemens Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Weaver Family (by the Clemens Family)  
Thur, Dec 17: \*8:30 a.m. † Robert Brandley (by the Bryant Family)  
Fri, Dec 18: \*7:00 a.m. † Fr Accardo (Richard & Barbara Juneau)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Frankie Smerglia (John Carroll Class of 1966)  
Sat, Dec 19: 9:15 a.m. † Ronnie Mason (Mary & Betty Mason)  
4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
Sun, Dec 20: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Tresa Harrington (by Todd Harrington)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. † George Boohaker (the Rumore Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Jamie Barnes, 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. Fourth Sunday of Advent 2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16, Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38  
7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent 1Cor 4:1-5, Lk 3:1-6  
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent 2Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16, Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38  
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent 1Cor 4:1-5, Lk 3:1-6

## *Jesus is Still The Light*

Yes, things are getting darker, but surely things will not get as dark as they did under the nazis and the communists. Such atrocities could not possibly happen today, right? No doubt we are too smart to let such evil history repeat itself. Sadly, the jury is still out on whether or not we are too smart to relive the horrors of the previous century. And how dark was it? We do well to remember that the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the greatest number of Christian martyrs than at any other time in the last 2,000 years. In fact, there were more Christian martyrs in the 20<sup>th</sup> century than in all of the preceding centuries combined.

When it is recognized that both communism and nazism originated from within the elite sectors of European society, then it is clear that being smart has little to do with preventing a repetition of the darkest days of the previous century. Neither of these inhuman movements found its origins in the less fortunate classes. While the patriarchs of communism and nazism certainly played upon the real or imagined prejudices and weaknesses of the masses, the vile doctrines and beliefs of the totalitarian elites were their own. The communists perpetrated their evils purportedly for the benefit of the workers while the nazi's crimes were done for the benefit of the ordinary people of the co-called 'master race.' Indeed, one way to understand the unfortunate excesses of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is that the grave evils were committed in the spirit of altruism.

Altruistic evil? Is that even possible? Yes, especially when man discards the eternal truths revealed to us by the one true God. Those truths come to us through the natural law, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. These truths are mediated to mankind through the Church and her activities. It should therefore be no surprise that the Catholic Church was the dread enemy of both communism and nazism. It is no less a surprise that both communism and nazism formulated their own orthodoxies and their own substitutes for the Church. The nazis invented a mystical mythology from thin air and the communists demanded religious loyalty to the party as expressed by being politically correct. Both forms of totalitarianism needed their own propaganda organs to promote and defend their evil deceptions.

Thankfully we have a free press. Thankfully we have impartial courts. Thankfully we have political and economic freedom. Thankfully we have technology. These have the power to protect us from tyranny. That is until they become beholden to and instruments of tyranny. As discussed last week, the press is hardly doing its job to uphold the truth and they have abandoned virtually all semblance of objectivity. Much the same can be said of many of our courts where judges rule according to partisan politics, not truth and justice. Political freedoms are vanishing rapidly as the last election proves to anyone who has eyes to see. Economic freedom may soon be a thing of the past since organizations are being persecuted for not being properly 'woke' and politically correct.

Just ask Chick-fil-a or Goya Foods. Just ask North Carolina about being boycotted over silly public bathroom issues. We will likely see financial institutions and businesses refusing to do business with individuals and organizations that don't conform to politically correct orthodoxy. I'm sorry, Diocese of Birmingham, your application for a construction loan has been denied. I'm sorry, Her Choice, but we are 'de-platforming' your website. I'm sorry, Fr Booth, but we are cancelling your credit cards. While things like this are already happening, what could make the coming darkness worse is technology. The architects of nazism and communism would lament that they did not have the digital tools we have today. Hunting down Jews and counterrevolutionaries would have been so much more efficient given facial recognition, forensic accounting, cellphone tracking, etc.

Will this dark trend continue? At this point it is hard to say, again since our social safeguards – the press, the courts, our constitutional rights – are no longer what they once were, it is a distinct possibility that it continues. Our spiritual safeguards – Jesus our true King, His mercy and His grace – are immovably intact and do not depend upon the press, the courts, or our constitutional rights. The Romans, the barbarians, the nazis, and the communists did not extinguish the Light of Christ. Why not? Because this Light shines in human hearts and minds, not in human institutions. - Fr Booth.