

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

January 9th/January 10th 2021: Baptism of the Lord (English)

Holy Family (Latin)



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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.

NEWLY REVISED DISPENSATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: Per Bishop Raica, all Roman Catholics who reside in the diocese are **dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation through March 14th**. No one, especially the vulnerable, should feel obliged to attend Mass. This is almost certainly the last extension for the Covid dispensation. Those who are not at risk are encouraged to return to 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 Neal Tallie, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 10th to until January 16th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Walter Roberts from until January 17th until January 23rd.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, January 16th. 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 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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$4465 and \$650 was donated to the Preservation Fund.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES for 2021, arranged alphabetically, are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

2021 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: The High Mass schedule will be as follows: Every second, third, and fourth Sunday of the month excluding Palm Sunday (March 28th) and December 26th with the addition of the Annunciation (March 25th), Holy Thursday (April 1st), Easter Sunday (April 4th), Corpus Christi (June 3rd, Confirmation), All Saints (November 1st), All Souls (November 2nd), Immaculate Conception (December 8th), and Christmas (December 25th).

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

Sat, Jan 9: 4:00 p.m. † Micae 'Michael' Vu (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Jan 10: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)
Mon, Jan 11: *8:30 a.m. † Charlene Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Jan 12: *8:30 a.m. † Tom Lucas (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Jan 13: *7:00 a.m. † Kaitlyn Barron (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Peter & Sharon Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Jan 14: *8:30 p.m. Special Intention for Daniel & Gina Barron (by the Donellans)
Fri, Jan 15: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Dominic Rumore (by the Donellans)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jill Caudle (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Jan 16: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Margaret Mary Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Anna Pohorelsky (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Jan 17: 7:30 a.m. † Alan Fricke (by Tom & Paula Pinter)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charlie Rumore & Family (by Tom & Paula Pinter)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Nida Hammond, 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. Second Sunday of Ordinary Time 1Sam 3:3-10,19, 1Cor 6:13-15,17-20, Jn 1:35-42
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday After Epiphany Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Ordinary Time 1Sam 3:3-10,19, 1Cor 6:13-15,17-20, Jn 1:35-42
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday After Epiphany Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11

Why, Lord, Why?

Why? Why hasn't God intervened for His people? Why did we have to endure a year like 2020? A baseless and bogus impeachment. Covid pandemic, quite likely a manmade. Thousands of senior citizens essentially condemned to death by governors insisting that Covid-infected patients be sent to nursing homes. The First Amendment rights of freedom speech, the free exercise of religion, and the right to freely assemble being forcibly taken away. Left-wing looters, rioters, anarchists, murderers, and rapists not being arrested or otherwise brought to justice. A stolen election. Complacency, perhaps even cooperation, among politicians in the president's own party. Criminals clearly and demonstrably committing election fraud with impunity, being given a pass by both state and federal law enforcement. The courts at all levels, including the Supreme Court, refusing to engage the election irregularities to give the people – the American people – their day in court. After all, it was the American people's election, not any politicians' or party's election. Absolute lies being spread and repeated by almost all levels of media as if the media was an organ of elements of the state or as if elements of the state answer to the media. Sadly, the 2020 hit list goes on and on.

Surely 2021 will be better. Surely 2021 will not be anything as bad as 2020. Six days into this new year, the wheels come off. To make matters worse, there are threats of violence and persecution being voiced by the media and politicians alike. One politician has called for an Orwellian 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' to be formed and another politician has encouraged her followers to begin collecting evidence so that law-abiding American citizens might be brought before this 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' simply for holding different political and moral beliefs. Some have labeled such statements as satire or political rhetoric. Unlikely, for the hatred of these people is undeniable.

America, that great democratic experiment, is looking like a failed attempt, at least the way things stand in early 2021. Ronald Reagan once said to America: 'You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness.' Given what has happened so rapidly over such a short period of time, we might well wonder if that first step has been irreversibly taken and if the inexorable march towards greater and more profound darkness has begun.

Again, where has God been in all of this? Adam and Eve might well have asked this very question after their fall into sin. However it is God who sought them. They hid themselves from God and He pleads, "*Where are you?*" (Gen 3:9). It is little different today. As a people we have grievously sinned and have removed ourselves from His presence. This has happened time and time again throughout the centuries, man estranging himself from God and yet wondering where He is in their hour of need. God pleads to the Israelites through Isaiah during the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, saying "*I was ready to respond to those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said: 'Here I am! Here I am!' to a nation that did not invoke my name. I have stretched out my hands all day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own designs; people who provoke me continually to my face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks*" (Isa 65:1-3).

We have barely invoked His name. We as a people have more faith in masks, vaccines, and politics than we do in God. We continue to walk in an evil way provoking Him with our myriad of sins, sins to which we have grown all too accustomed: contraception, abortion, blasphemy, adultery, idolatry, slander, pornography, covetousness, falsehoods, casual divorce, profaning the sabbath, immoral marriage, pride, and a litany of other sins. Indeed, is there just one of the Ten Commandments that is widely observed and respected? Just one? Nope. In fact, it is likely that we will wallow more often and deeper in the mire of sin before we come to our senses. A year like 2020 should have brought us to our knees in prayer and should have brought more and more people back to church. It remains to be seen if we as a nation or even as a remnant of a nation will begin to do so this year. Given what we have seen, what in the world will it take for us to return to the Lord?

- Fr Booth