

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

January 16th/January 17th 2021: 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

2nd Sunday After Epiphany (Latin)



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211**

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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 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.

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 Walter Roberts, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 17th to until January 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Maxine Olson from until January 24th until January 30th.

REST IN PEACE: Mina Keasler passed away on January 14th. Visitation will be at Patterson Forest Grove Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 19th from noon to 1:00 p.m. with a funeral service immediately following. 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.

THIRD SUNDAY: This 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 \$7950 and \$3000 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 for the 10:45 a.m. Mass 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)

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| Sat, Jan 16: | 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) |
| Mon, Jan 18: | *8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for the Hahn Family (by the Pinter Family) |
| Tues, Jan 19: | *8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for the Donellan Family (by the Pinters) |
| Wed, Jan 20: | *7:00 a.m. | Special Intention for Jose & Carilina Valencia (by Tom & Paula Pinter) |
| | *8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for Miguel Valencia (by the Pinters) |
| Thur, Jan 21: | *8:30 p.m. | Special Intention for Ari Fogelman (by Tom Pinter) |
| Fri, Jan 22: | *7:00 a.m. | Special Intention for Pinter Memorials (by Paula Pinter) |
| | *8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for Jose Antonio & Emilia Valencia (by Tom & Paula Pinter) |
| Sat, Jan 23: | 4:00 p.m. | Special Intention for Frank & Elizabeth Pinter (by Tom & Paula Pinter) |
| Sun, Jan 24: | 7:30 a.m. | Special Intention for the Pinter Children (by Tom & Paula Pinter) |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Pro Populo |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Special Intention for Deacon & Mrs. Terry Rumore, Sr. (by the Hahn Family) |

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, 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

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| 4:00 p.m. | 3 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time | Jonah 3:1-5,10, 1Cor 7:29-31, Mk 1:14-20 |
| 7:30 a.m. | 3 rd Sunday After Epiphany | Rom 12:16-21, Mt 8:1-13 |
| 9:00 a.m. | 3 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time | Jonah 3:1-5,10, 1Cor 7:29-31, Mk 1:14-20 |
| 10:45 a.m. | 3 rd Sunday After Epiphany | Rom 12:16-21, Mt 8:1-13 |

Avoid Hatred

In these trying times we need to be wary of any sustained anger. Brief anger from stubbing a toe or being cut off in traffic is unavoidable, but such anger ought to dissipate rapidly. This passing anger at small injustices does not pose a problem for most people unless the small issues become chronic problems that have to be endured frequently, which often happens in a marriage. These chronic problems can lead to resentment and over time can hinder, cripple or even destroy a relationship.

The more dangerous anger that we need to avoid is the type that breeds the urge for vengeance or retribution. This type of anger is usually brought about by large, even profound injustices. Being furious over someone murdering a loved one is understandable, but an-eye-for-an-eye response does not conform to the Gospel. Whether the anger is small and passing, small and chronic, or profound, the Christian teaching remains the same. From the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches: *“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna”* (Mt 5:21-22). Jesus equates anger towards another with murder. This would apply to any deliberate, chosen anger irrespective of the anger’s source. So often, however, the angry man justifies letting the anger grow to hatred. On this point, St John is even more direct: *“Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him”* (1Jn 3:15).

Sadly the amount of anger and raw hatred in our culture is stunning. Even more shocking, it is coming from people purporting to be Christians, and not a small number of which claim to be Catholic. Some peoples’ hatred is so obvious that they want to do emotional, physical, spiritual, financial, and social harm to a specific politician and those who are like-minded. They are going so far as to label ordinary, honorable, and innocent citizens as domestic terrorists because they support, agree with, or voted for that vilified politician. Indeed, a low-grade form of tyranny has already begun. Innocent citizens are being silenced, threatened, and ‘doxed.’ One proponent of the vilified politician has had his life insurance canceled by a major insurer solely because of his beliefs. Will they stop there? Will they cancel his family’s health insurance? His car insurance? His mortgage? His checking account and credit cards? These peoples’ hatred is likely to seek the total ruination of innocent men because these innocent men love God, they love America, they love freedom, and they love the truth.

Being innocent is no defense. False evidence has been manufactured against innocent people in this country and elsewhere. Some of those innocent people have been bankrupted just trying to defend themselves in court. Others have been incarcerated on falsified evidence. Cardinal George Pell was falsely accused and convicted of crimes he could not have committed. Australia’s highest court eventually concluded that ‘an innocent man had been convicted.’ Except for the hatred of a few men, the charges against Cardinal Pell would have been dismissed long before court proceedings began.

So how does such anger and hatred turn rational people into tyrants who think they are promoting justice by persecuting the innocent? When anger festers into hatred it easily leads to the demonization of others. It could well be that demonizing others, which is happening more and more, leads to behavior that is, well, demonic. This makes sense since St Paul warns us *“Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil”* (Eph 4:26-27). What kind of opportunity for the devil? It seems likely that those who harbor deliberate anger can become agents of satan’s will. So, when one sets out to falsely label innocent people as moronic, homophobic, misogynist, terroristic white supremacists, it is only a matter of time before the false labels become a perceived truth and the perceived truth is acted upon. Wouldn’t the elimination of moronic, homophobic, misogynist, terroristic white supremacists be perceived as good thing? That sustained and deliberate anger gives the devil opportunities explains much of what is currently happening and stands as a warning that such anger has no place in our lives. None. - Fr Booth