

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 20th/March 21st: 2021: Fifth Sunday of Lent (English)

Passion Sunday (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.

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 May 23rd.** 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, who have already had Covid, who have been vaccinated, and who have otherwise returned to a more normal life 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 Bessie K. Lawrence, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 21st to until March 27th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Steve Melendez from March 28th until April 3rd.

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

ANNUNCIATION: A Latin High Mass will be offered on the Feast of the Annunciation on Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, April 2nd it will be at 2:30 p.m.). No meal will follow stations but we will have confessions following Stations.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: First Communion will be on Sunday, April 18th. Opportunities for first confession will be provided on several occasions prior to First Communion.

CONFIRMATION DATE: Confirmation will be on Thursday, June 3rd. There will be three classes offered for the confirmandi tentatively scheduled for May 2nd, May 16th, and May 30th.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$8678, \$100 was donated to the Preservation Fund, and \$1459 was donated for the Burse Club.

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).

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a four-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Mar 20 9:15 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
 4:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Mar 21: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Baumbach Family (by Diane Penney)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
 10:45 a.m. † Edward J. Penney (by Diane Penney)

Mon, Mar 22: *8:30 a.m. Private Intention

Tues, Mar 23: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ari Fogelman (by Paula Pinter)

Wed, Mar 24: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Tom Pinter (by Paula Pinter)
 *8:30 a.m. † Loretta Mara (by Cathy Schauer)

Thur, Mar 25: *8:30 a.m. † Shelia Garner (by Mary & Betty Mason)
 6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Kolbe Ann Rumore (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)

Fri, Mar 26: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Dominic Rumore (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
 *8:30 a.m. † Ronald Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sat, Mar 27 4:00 p.m. † Ronald Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Mar 28: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Clem & Alice Muck (by the Duval Family)
 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
 10:45 a.m. † R. David Head (by Michelle Head)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Gail McMahon, Sarah Minjares, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Mary Cavanagh, Paul Minjares, Sr Miracles, Bob Wiseman, Bernita Hicks, Jerry Bryant, Eve Moore, 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, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Paul Herrmann, 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. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mk 14:1-15:47
7:30 a.m. Palm Sunday, Abbreviated Gospel	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 27:45-52
9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mk 14:1-15:47
10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 26:36-27:60

Follow Wisely

Following ought to lead somewhere. Some follow sports, which might lead to becoming the winner – vicariously – of a national championship, winner of a conference championship, winner of the Super Bowl, winner of a green jacket, winner of a yellow jersey, and so forth. If someone follows the team physically, this might lead to the Superdome, Augusta, Wimbledon, or perhaps even the White House. For most fans, following sports leads to occasional victory but usually to disappointment and defeat: only one team or competitor can be the champion in any given year. Yes, there is always next year. This applies to this year's champs and to the also-rans. Winning is fleeting. Proof of this lies in the fact that the holder of the most college football national championships, Yale, has not won since 1927. The college with the third most championships, Princeton, has not been champion since 1922.

Some people follow celebrities. Someone like Princess Diana certainly can attract a cadre of followers. She died well before the advent of Twitter, but had she not died prematurely she would have had many millions of people following her tweets. As it is, Justin Bieber has something like 114 million followers, Katy Perry has 109 million, Lady Gaga has 83 million, and Bill Gates has 53 million people as followers. But one must ask at some point, where exactly does following Bill Gates or Lady Gaga or any other Twitter celebrity actually lead? Where does one actually expect to arrive in following someone on any social media platform? Princess Diana, in her day perhaps best followed through the British tabloids, died and really can't be followed anymore. The same will eventually apply to any highly followed celeb who will find it quite difficult to tweet from the grave and not just because their cellphone will have no signal six feet under.

Some will follow a leader out of duty or self-interest. This might be an employee or a soldier who has to place his trust in their bosses or commanders. They trust that their bosses and commanders know what they are doing and have a reasonable vision of obtaining a worthwhile goal. The bosses and commanders, unlike athletes and celebrities, have a duty to their subordinates; they have a duty not to squander their talents or their lives. Following competent military leadership might lead to winning a war, reestablishing peace, or liberating the oppressed. Following competent corporate leadership might lead to any number of social or technological advancements, such as curing diseases, making life safer, and providing for the basic needs of many. However, if the leadership is incompetent or has evil goals, massive harm might come to those who follow and many others as well. Following sports and celebrities ultimately leads nowhere, but following corporate or military leaders will have consequences for good or ill. Those who follow share in the achievements or the evils of their leaders: I was just following orders does not work in a human tribunal nor will it work in the divine tribunal.

Following a politician is much like following a corporate or military leader, except the good or evil consequences might be much greater. The fundamental question, where does following lead me, must be asked quite earnestly when it comes to following a politician. Are more taxes, higher unemployment, more abortions, more deception, more corruption, more injustice, destruction of culture, destruction of families, demonization of people, promotion of immorality, more addiction, more chaos, more indoctrination but less education, more infringement of religious liberty, etc. destinations that anyone in the right mind would truly want? A politician need not be Hitlerian to bring about grave evils. After all, because of politicians our death camps – Planned Parenthood and the like – have shed more innocent blood than the Nazis' did by a factor of at least ten.

In other words, we need to consider what or whom we choose to follow. For the Christian, this should be straightforward and obvious. *“No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon... But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides”* (Mt 6:24,33). Truly, following Christ has but one destination. That destination is accessed by taking just one road. Jesus never said that road would wide or easy, but its destination is surely worth it. - Fr Booth