

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 27th/March 28th: 2021: Palm Sunday



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.

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 Steve Melendez, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 28th to until April 3rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Catherine Kelly from April 4th until April 10th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 2nd at 2:30 p.m.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: First Communion will be on Sunday, April 18th. Opportunities for first confession will be provided on Sunday, April 11th after the 10:45 Mass and at the First Communion rehearsal on Saturday, April 17th.

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 \$3900 and \$50 was donated to the Preservation Fund.

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 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Holy Thursday: 5:00 p.m. Latin High Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 p.m. English Mass of the Lord's Supper, adoration until 9:00 p.m.

Good Friday: 1:30 p.m. Confessions until 2:25 p.m.
2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Latin Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
6:00 p.m. Confessions until 6:45 p.m.
7:00 p.m. English Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday: 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass in English

Easter Sunday: 7:30 a.m. Easter Low Mass in Latin
9:00 a.m. Easter Mass in English
10:45 a.m. Easter High Mass in Latin

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

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 Duvals)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † R. David Head (by Michelle Head)

Mon, Mar 29: *8:30 a.m. † Margaret Kennedy (by the Runge Family)

Tues, Mar 30: *8:30 a.m. † Algie Kennedy (by the Runge Family)

Wed, Mar 31: *7:00 a.m. † Howard McFarlane (by the Runge Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Frederick Runge (by the Runge Family)

Thur, Apr 1: 5:00 p.m. † Doris Runge (by the Runge Family)
7:00 p.m. † Buddy Hall (by the Runge Family)

Fri, Apr 2: 3:00 p.m. *Latin Liturgy of the Lord's Passion*
7:00 p.m. *English Liturgy of the Lord's Passion*

Sat, Apr 3 8:00 p.m. † Patricia Smith (by the Runge Family)

Sun, Apr 4: 7:30 a.m. † Jessie Smith (by the Runge Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Fay Bestrum (by the Runge Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Phillip Rumore, 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, 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

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Gen 1:1-2:2, Ex 14:15-15:1, Isa 55:1-11, Rom 6:3-11, Mk 16:1-7

7:30 a.m. Easter Sunday 1Cor 5:7-8, Mk 16:1-7

9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Acts 10:34,37-43, Col 3:1-4, Jn 20:1-9

10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday 1Cor 5:7-8, Mk 16:1-7

Follow Humbly & Faithfully

Today, Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem much like a conquering king, and in fact, that is exactly what He is doing to fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, namely *“Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* The people shout Hosanna and spread before the Lord palm branches and garments. In shouting Hosanna they are proclaiming Jesus as their savior and the impromptu road of branches and clothes declares Him to be their king. They see Him as savior in the sense, no doubt, of liberation from the Romans and they declare Him king, no doubt, as in a ruler like David. The crowds then follow Jesus, seen as their political and worldly savior-king, into Jerusalem without realizing that some, perhaps many, of these same people would soon turn on their savior-king and shout *“crucify Him, crucify Him!”*

They followed Jesus assuming that He would lead them where they wanted to go, not where He would take them. He taught in the Temple area and elsewhere frequently enough for many people to know exactly where He stood on the Roman occupiers and exactly how He would rule as King. For them to think that Jesus would liberate them from the Romans surely came from His teaching, but that is not the case at all. Jesus never spoke of driving the Romans from the Promised Land. For them to think that Jesus would govern much like His ancient earthly father David surely came from what He promised the people, but that is not the case either. Jesus, despite being the Son of David, never spoke of ruling over the Promised Land as an earthly king. In other words, the people are projecting their own ideas, wishes, and desires on Jesus and failing to actually listen to what He taught in their midst. Failing to listen to Jesus leads infallibly to seeing Jesus as someone He is not, which eventually results in regarding Him as a failure, as a disappointment, and even as a liar. That He failed to live up to the people’s expectation can only be blamed on their false expectations of Jesus, not on Jesus Himself.

Many people today fall into the same trap. They follow Jesus on their own terms instead of His terms. They have expectations of Jesus that have little or nothing to do with what He actually promised or taught. Their expectations of following Christ generally pertain to this world and this life instead of the world to come and life eternal. Jesus will almost always disappoint when we insist that He conform to our will and our expectations. It is quite easy to forget the essence of Jesus’ basic mission, that He came to do the will of His heavenly Father: *“I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me”* (Jn 6:38). To expect Jesus to bend to our will represents profound pride, that we can somehow make ourselves equal to or even greater than God the Father.

Thus, people will follow Jesus conditionally, following Him until it becomes clear that they will not obtain what they want, until they are confronted with the cross, or both. Departure from following the Lord will be especially fervent and final when their primary expectation of Jesus is that He spares them from their crosses. How can anyone listen to our Lord and not hear Him say *“If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me”* (Lk 9:23) and *“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple”* (Lk 14:27)? How can anyone follow Jesus thinking that He accepted His cross so that we would avoid our own crosses?

Like it or not, following Jesus inexorably leads to the cross. It leads there because we sent Him to the cross with our sins. It leads there because we are to share in His sufferings, not because we can make amends through our sufferings, but to complete and fulfill what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ (Col 1:24): if we are to participate in His life, we should not be surprised that we also share in His suffering and death. Following Jesus leads to the cross so that we can also *“proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God”* (1Cor 1:23-24). In other words, we follow Jesus not to satisfy our will but in accord with His will, which actually leads to obtaining what is truly best for ourselves and for others: reconciliation and communion with God now and forever. - Fr Booth