

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 10th/April 11th 2021: Divine Mercy 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 Crawford Mabee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 11th to until April 17th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Joel Levenberg from April 18th until April 24th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, April 17th. 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 about 9:15 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. Due to First Communion, we will forgo the vocations prayers following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION REHEARSAL: First Communion rehearsal will be held on Saturday, April 17th at 10:30 a.m.

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.

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 December 26th with the addition of Corpus Christi (June 3rd, Confirmation), All Saints (November 1st), All Souls (November 2nd), Immaculate Conception (December 8th), and Christmas (December 25th).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$12937 and \$3200 was donated to the Preservation Fund.

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, Apr 10	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for the Jones Family (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Apr 11:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Jones Family (by Mary & Betty Mason)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Lori Donellan (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Apr 12:	*8:30 a.m.	† Carl Jusi (by Madeline Sampedro)
Tues, Apr 13:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Paul Clemens (by the Clemens Family)
Wed, Apr 14:	*7:00 a.m.	† Souls in Purgatory (by the Clemens Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Lillie Rumore (by the Tyler Family)
Thur, Apr 15:	*8:30 a.m.	† Avis Booth (by the Tyler Family)
Fri, Apr 16:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Claire Mathews (by Mary Margaret Rumore)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Avis Booth (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Apr 17	9:15 a.m.	Special Intention for Elizabeth Fernandes (by Mary Margaret Rumore)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Michael Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Apr 18:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Stephanie Jusi (by Madeline Sampedro)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Raphael Generaux (by Michelle Head)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Julie Kelly, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Sarah Minjares, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Mary Cavanagh, 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

4:00 p.m. Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:13-15,17-19, 1Jn 2:1-5, Lk 24:35-48
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday After Easter	1Pet 2:21-25, Jn 10:11-16
9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:13-15,17-19, 1Jn 2:1-5, Lk 24:35-48
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday After Easter	1Pet 2:21-25, Jn 10:11-16

Mercy vs Human Respect

All too often human respect causes us to act contrary to what is best. Human respect often gives rise to what appears to be mercy, but might actually be false mercy. Withholding the truth or embracing attractive lies is one way false mercy is exercised. For example, a pathetic excuse for a politician recently promised that we would have, within the next ten years, airplanes that would travel 21,000 miles per hour, that a car could be able to travel from coast to coast on a single tank of gas, and that our trains would go as fast as airliners. An airplane that flies at 21,000 miles per hour would be 37 times faster than current commercial jets, 16 times faster than the Concorde, nearly 10 times faster than the fastest military jet ever flown, and 4.5 times faster than the all-time speed record held by an experimental single-seat rocket plane. That rocket plane had a range of less than 300 miles and used over 2,500 gallons of fuel in the process. Such an airliner is literally incredible. Much the same can be said of a car that gets nearly 200 miles to the gallon, roughly 4 times more than the most economical cars in current production. A train that goes about 4 times as fast as the fastest passenger train operated by AMTRAK might be technically feasible (unlike the promised 21,000 mph airliner) but would require gargantuan amounts of money to build and operate even over a short distance. It would be much, much cheaper and much more economical to fly on our existing airliners. Most incredible of all is that the government would make all of this possible. Right.

That these outlandish and utterly unattainable promises went unchallenged by the press is unbelievable. Why no challenge or correction? Human respect. It is worrisome that a politician could make such promises especially since it was a prepared speech – surely someone could have and should have checked those figures – but that the press remained mostly silent on these claims is shocking. The outlandish claims might be explained in one of three ways. First, the politician is a doddering fool surrounded by a flotilla of fools. Second, the government is exploiting UFO technology. Or, third, we have discovered an unlimited supply of magic pixie dust that will suspend the laws of physics to make such advances possible. From the press' perspective, however, human respect is the only answer. They know that this politician is mentally compromised by some form of dementia, but since he is 'their guy' and shares their immoral values, the truth goes unreported.

That this man is *non compos mentis* must be of grave concern. Human respect does no one any favors in this instance. What is needed is true mercy. The merciful thing to do is to admit the truth and act upon it. Overlooking and covering up his flaws serves no purpose. The same can be said of not challenging and holding accountable murderous and lecherous governors. What happens when demented or murderous or lecherous politicians are given a pass out of human respect? We continue to have demented, lecherous, and murderous politicians. For the sake of political correctness and human respect, the norm will continue to be political corruption, immorality, and injustice.

True mercy cannot be separated from the truth. False mercy frequently embraces a lie or withholds the truth. We have bishops, priests, deacons, and religious who promote sinful behaviors or who fail to teach right from wrong all because of human respect. They will promise that annulments are unnecessary or that confessing mortal sins is merely optional. One almost wonders if they would change Jesus' words to the woman caught in adultery from "*Go and sin no more*" to 'Carry on as you were.' They would argue that surely Jesus would have spared her feelings. Right.

Jesus did not come to spare anyone's feelings and He certainly did not lie to us. No, He came to spare us from eternal damnation. In His mercy He promises that those who have faith, hope, love, and do the will of the Father, thereby having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, will be saved. What He promised would be more impossible than a 21,000 mph airliner if it were not for His divine grace. Access to that divine grace, especially through the sacraments, comes to us by His divine mercy, not because we are wonderful, great, or deserving. The truth, the merciful truth, is that we are sinners and deserve hell, and the merciful truth is that Jesus came that we might not get what we deserve.

- Fr Booth