

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 22nd / May 23rd 2021: Pentecost



**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 and will continue on a provisional basis.

COVID-19 RESPONSE, CONFESSIONS: Given our very confined confessionals, confessions will continue to be held behind the Church 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. Confessions will likely remain outside throughout the month of June, perhaps into July.

LIFTING THE DISPENSATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: Per Bishop Raica, beginning on Monday, May 24th, which is the Memorial of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, all Roman Catholics residing or visiting and present in the Diocese of Birmingham shall again be subject to the precept physically attending Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, notwithstanding the ordinary and serious reasons why one's obligation may be excused, including being at high risk, being advised by a doctor to avoid exposure to other people, or having an illness or Covid symptoms.

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 Edward Von Hagel, Sr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 23rd to until 29th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Fr Bill Jones from May 30th until June 5th.

GAIL MCMAHON, our organist for 20 years, has retired due to health considerations. Get Well and Thank You cards can be sent c/o Ann Rodgers, 5031 Stratford Rd, Birmingham 35242.

NEW CONFIRMATION DATE: Confirmation, to be celebrated by Fr Booth with Bishop Raica's permission, is now scheduled for Sunday, June 6th at 10:45. There will be three classes offered for the confirmandi scheduled for May 2nd, May 16th, and May 30th.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$4,305 and \$200 was donated to the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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.

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 (Thursday, June 3rd), Sunday June 6th (Confirmation), All Saints (Monday, November 1st), All Souls (Tuesday, November 2nd), Immaculate Conception (Wednesday, December 8th), and Christmas (Saturday, December 25th).

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

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

Sat, May 22	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Mandy Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, May 23:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention Gianna Holden (by Eddie & Beth Mathews)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlie & Allison Rumore (by Eddie, Beth, & Peter Mathews)
Mon, May 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Ann Renna (by the Duval Family)
Tues, May 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for David Muck, Jr. (by the Duval Family)
Wed, May 26:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Alice Muck (by the Duval Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Beth Lauriello (by the Duval Family)
Thur, May 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for James Erickson (by the Duval Family)
Fri, May 28:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Mallorie Duval (by the Duval Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for William Fernandes (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, May 29	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Mrs. Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, May 30:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Lynn Irwin by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Sophie Sabri (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Anthony Morris, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Mary Cavanagh, Sister Miracles, Bob Wiseman, Jerry Bryant, Eve Moore, Nida Hammond, Aaron Minjares, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Don Williams, Roseanne Timpa, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, 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. Trinity Sunday	Dt 4:32-34,39-40, Rom 8:14-17, Mt 28:16-20
7:30 a.m. Trinity Sunday	Rom 11:33-36, Mt 28:18-20
9:00 a.m. Trinity Sunday	Dt 4:32-34,39-40, Rom 8:14-17, Mt 28:16-23
10:45 a.m. Trinity Sunday	Rom 11:33-36, Mt 28:18-20

The Advocate We Need

It is common to hear advocacy advertisements. Any number of causes can be highlighted that we would not otherwise be concerned with. For example, from these advertisements one learns that autism affects 1 out of about 110 children. This is a very real statistic. They also say that 1 in 5 American children suffer from hunger. They say 1 in 5 soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD. They say 1 in 4 American adults suffer from a mental disorder in a given year. These numbers seem plausible yet alarming. But are they true?

Doubtful. Digging deeper, you find that 1 in 5 American children suffer not from hunger *per se*, but from food insecurity. Food insecurity means not having easy access or complete access to healthy wholesome food. So instead of having to explain what food insecurity means, it's easier to imply that a large fraction of our children suffer from actual third-world-like hunger. The number of combat soldiers suffering from PTSD ranges between 9 and 18%. They choose a higher number to emphasize the problem, yet, that 9 to 18% applies only for those who go into combat. In the modern military there are four servicemen in support roles for every one who sees combat. Thus, 1 in 5 veterans suffering from PTSD is a gross exaggeration when it is really 2 to 4%. The same holds true for the supposed number of American adults – one in four – who suffer from a mental disorder in a given year. Once you find out that a drug company is paying for this advertisement, it all comes into focus.

It is impossible to say that kids don't suffer from hunger, that soldiers don't suffer from PTSD, and that mental illness is not a significant issue. What can be said is that those who advocate for various causes have a tendency to deceive for the sake of that cause. They have an interest in promoting the cause, and sadly that interest is often financial. This should not surprise us since the medium of advertising is rife with exaggeration, half-truths, and deception. It is the advocate's job to promote something, and if a little bit of deception helps the cause, then why not? After all, it is for a good cause such as battling hunger, PTSD, and mental health issues. While human advocates will lie, exaggerate, and distort the truth for the sake of their cause, our Advocate, the Holy Spirit, does no such thing. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to lead us to all truth.

Sadly, this does not stop pastors from exaggerating, distorting, or stretching the truth like advocates of worldly causes. Some preach fire and brimstone but fail to convey God's mercy. Many more preach God's mercy but fail to mention that His mercy requires sincere repentance. St Thomas Aquinas once observed that 'Mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution; justice without mercy is cruelty.' The man who preaches fire and brimstone as an expression of God's justice without reference to God's mercy is preaching a false, cruel gospel. The man who preaches mercy without recognition of divine justice teaches a false gospel that scatters but not gathers. Neither preaches a gospel that is Jesus' teaching, neither preaches the Holy Spirit's truth.

Like the advocate of worldly causes, the preacher of the cruel gospel of justice without mercy is no doubt thinking he is doing good by demonstrating the consequence of sin. Like the advocate of worldly causes, the preacher of a gospel of mercy without justice thinks he's doing people a favor by giving them peace of mind by ignoring the consequence of sin. One false gospel leads to despair and the other false gospel leads to presumption. Neither leads to salvation.

The Holy Spirit did not descend upon the Church to cause servile fear nor did He come to make us feel good about ourselves. He came that we might admit the uncomfortable truth that we need mercy and the comfortable truth that we can taste that mercy through faith-filled repentance. The Holy Spirit is not an advocate for some cause. He is the Advocate of us. We are the problem, we are the cause. Without the Holy Spirit, it is not like 1 in 5 make it to heaven. It is infinitely bleaker than that. With the Holy Spirit, it is not like 1 in 4 fail to make it to heaven. It is infinitely more comforting than that. Since none of us is long for this world, the question is this: do we have the Holy Spirit, do we have the one true Advocate in our life and on our side?

- Fr Booth