

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

June 26th/June 27th 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

5th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30, which 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 remain outside throughout the month of June.

EXPIRATION OF THE DISPENSATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION: Per Bishop Raica, all Roman Catholics residing or visiting and present in the Diocese of Birmingham are once again 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 Julia V. Woods, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from June 27th until July 3rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of James Mickel from July 4th until July 10th.

SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend there will be a second collection for the Mission Cooperative Appeal. This collection brings much needed help to specific dioceses and ministries in India, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Nicaragua.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on July 2nd at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on July 3rd. Altar server training and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

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, B'ham 35242.

LATIN MASS EMAIL LIST: If you would like to be added to the Blessed Sacrament Latin Mass Community email list then please send your name and email address to blessedsacrament1929@gmail.com

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 is as follows: Every second, third, and fourth Sunday of the month excluding December 26th with the addition of All Saints (Monday, November 1st), All Souls (Tuesday, November 2nd), Immaculate Conception (Wednesday, December 8th), and Christmas (Saturday, December 25th).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4729 and \$800 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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, June 26	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for John Morgan (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, June 27:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Jonathan Zaucha (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, June 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Beaumont Family (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, June 29:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Wed, June 30:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Int. for the Gagnon Family (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Int. for Michele DiPiazza (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, July 1:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Int. for Eduardo Kortright (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, July 2:	*8:30 a.m.	† Sandra LaRussa (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Int. for Camile Hooks (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Sat, July 3	8:30 a.m.	Special Int. for John Paul Hahn (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
	4:00 p.m.	† Mina Keasler (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, July 4:	7:30 a.m.	† Mina Keasler (by Cathy Schauer)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for the Pinter Family (by Grace Gagnon)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jan Joseph, Matthew Leonard, Gloria Archambault, Anthony Morris, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, 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.	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ez 2:2-5, 2Cor 12:7-10, Mk 6:1-6
7:30 a.m.	6 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:3-11, Mk 8:1-9
9:00 a.m.	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ez 2:2-5, 2Cor 12:7-10, Mk 6:1-6
10:45 a.m.	6 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:3-11, Mk 8:1-9

Is it Essential?

One of the many worries bishops have is whether or not people will return to church after the covid shutdown and the subsequent and protracted dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation. Watching Mass on TV or over the internet might have become the new normal for not a few Catholics even though virtual participation cannot equal, supplant, or substitute for actual Mass attendance. We are now once again obliged to attend Mass in person from beginning to end, from ‘In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...’ to ‘Go in peace, the Mass has ended.’

Perhaps some people don’t miss the commute, the parking woes, the mediocre homilies, the crowds, the crying babies, the uncomfortable pews, and so forth. For some, watching Mass in their pajamas, commuting from the bedroom to the living room, finding ample parking on the couch, using the mute button, taking advantage of their TV’s picture-in-picture feature, being able to eat before, during, and after Mass, watching Mass at 1.25×, 1.5×, or even at 2× speed, or perhaps watching Mass while facepaging at the same time might seem like true benefits after more than a year of physical absence. And let’s face it, some won’t be back to church because they enjoyed not having to go to Mass during the covid hiatus or they found something they think – quite mistakenly! – is better than going to church. Some probably did not need much of a reason or excuse for never returning again.

Thankfully, this does not describe our parish or our parishioners. Not all parishes can say that, however. While some parishes have emerged from covid stronger than ever, like Blessed Sacrament, others have been weakened to varying degrees, some to the point that their future as a parish is in doubt. This weakening is not from a large number of covid fatalities or even the death of their pastors. Our diocese has lost zero priests to covid and the total number of fatalities statewide is much lower than projected. No, the jeopardy faced by some parishes stems from parishioners not returning. Granted, some at-risk parishes may not have been long for this world before covid, however, others will have been brought to the brink by people drawing the conclusion that the church is nonessential. After all, most bishops were too silent regarding, or even too comfortable with, the civil authorities declaring the Church nonessential during covid, so some people will conclude that the Church remains nonessential now that covid has abated. Some might ask whether the Church was even essential prior to covid.

Since the Church provides the means, the avenues of God’s grace, through which salvation from sin and death is offered to humanity, how could we ever see the Church as nonessential? Covid should have taught us the absolutely essential nature of our faith and the importance of remaining close to God at all times, especially through Mass and the other sacraments. But have there been prior indications and hints implying (falsely) that the Church is in fact nonessential? The sad answer is Yes.

The ongoing priestly vocation crisis and the widespread lack of urgency seen in both clergy and laypeople in regard to fostering more vocations suggests that the Church and the faith she professes is of low importance. How might we measure this? Consider the effort put into the annual Catholic Charities campaign. Have we seen even a fraction of attention, effort, or urgency from the diocese or from many priests regarding having enough men answer God’s call? Not so much. Another measure of the scope of the problem can be seen in the fact that we have ordained only seven men in the last ten years and we have lost more than twice that number of active priests to retirement, medical issues, and death. We have two, possibly three, priests retiring this year, two last year, and probably another four next year while having ordained none in 2020, none in 2021, and one scheduled for 2021.

Thus far we have gotten by through importing priests from abroad, especially India, and through priests serving well past retirement age. Those strategies have run their course and cannot be expected to meet our need for pastors much longer. Vocations in India have been drying up for some time and they have lost hundreds of priests to covid, so they can’t really solve our problem. Thus, we are likely to see parishes deemed nonessential for lack of parishioners, lack of financial resources, and lack of priests. At this point, it is not a matter of if but more of who, when, and how many. - Fr Booth