

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 3<sup>rd</sup>/July 4<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211  
Phone: (205) 785-9840

E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)  
Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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:** Confessions have returned to the confessional. 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.

**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 James Mickel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 4<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Marian & Saverio Miranda from July 11<sup>th</sup> until July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** This 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, Birmingham 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> with the addition of All Saints (Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>), All Souls (Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>), Immaculate Conception (Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>), and Christmas (Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>).

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$5866, \$200 was donated to the Preservation Fund, and \$792 was collected for the Mission Cooperative appeal. 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, July 3	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention 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)
Mon, July 5:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Sandra Phillips (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Tues, July 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Wed, July 7:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Sandra Phillips (by Mary & Betty Mason)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Wilhelmina Keasler (by Helen Brandley)
Thur, July 8:	*8:30 a.m.	† Stormy Decker (by the Tyler Family)
Fri, July 9:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Thomas Lauer (by the Tyler Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† Debbie Sawyer (by the Bryant Family)
Sat, July 10	4:00 p.m.	† Robert C. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, July 11:	7:30 a.m.	† Jake Culotta, Sr. (by the Bryant Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Kathy Morse (by the Sampedro Family)

**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.	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 7:12-15, Eph 1:3-14, Mk 6:7-13
7:30 a.m.	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21
9:00 a.m.	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 7:12-15, Eph 1:3-14, Mk 6:7-13
10:45 a.m.	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21

## *A Crisis of Whose Making?*

When it comes to vocations, it is easy to presume that God is simply not calling enough men. After all, it is a calling, it is a vocation in the sense that the priesthood is a God-given purpose in life not to be chosen arbitrarily or capriciously by any man. A man good at math may reasonably choose any number of professions such as science, engineering, accounting, economics, or computer science. Or he might feel drawn to another career field unrelated to mathematics for any number of reasons despite having such a proficiency. The priesthood, however, does not have specific academic fields that are indicative: the basic intelligence necessary to obtain a master's degree suffices. Proficiency in foreign languages, public speaking, and writing are desirable skills, but not absolutely necessary.

History demonstrates that God can work with and through men of high and low intellect. Not every priest needs an extraordinary mind on the order of St Thomas Aquinas. Indeed, the original twelve Apostles boasted of zero scholars. Yes, St Paul was an intellect and it seems that St Barnabas was as well. The next century saw scholars such as St Justin Martyr and St Irenaeus, and later we saw great intellects arise like St Ambrose, St Augustine, St Leo the Great, and St Gregory the Great, but that does not mean all priests were similarly intelligent. A need exists for great Christian theologians and philosophers, but there is also a great necessity, almost certainly a greater necessity, for more men of ordinary intellect to preach, teach, and celebrate the sacraments. The writings and teachings of great scholars have their place, but not at the expense of meeting the sacramental and pastoral needs of the people. Perhaps that is why Jesus chose ordinary men to be His Apostles.

A different way of looking at it is to examine another vocation. Does a husband and a father need to be highly intelligent to be a faithful husband and a devoted father? Hardly. He needs to be a good, honest, and decent man. In short, he needs to be a virtuous man. The same basic personal qualities that make for a good husband and father are necessary for a man to be a good cleric. Unfortunately, we want to quantify the suitability of a candidate for the priesthood, but qualities such as fidelity, honesty, decency, humility, and dedication cannot be quantified easily. Thus, the Church tends to emphasize academic performance over personal virtue. Yet, given that Theodore McCarrick was an intellect while St John Vianney was widely regarded as a dunce, the Church would be a damn sight better with a thousand John Vianneys and zero Theodore McCarricks.

Was McCarrick called to be a priest? Almost certainly not. Was St John Vianney? Almost certainly. How so? First, given his 'issues' McCarrick would not have made a decent husband or father while St John Vianney would have. Secondly, until recently McCarrick's claim to fame was fundraising. St John Vianney's claim to fame before and after his death was sanctity. Despite McCarrick's lack of virtue, he sailed through seminary. Despite his personal sanctity, St John Vianney almost didn't survive seminary. So much for quantifiable intellect as a measure of a man's calling.

In any case, God is probably calling many men in our diocese to the priesthood despite our pitiful number of current seminarians and the paucity of recent ordinations. That our diocese has ordained only seven men in the last ten years and over those same ten years we have lost more than twice that number of active priests to retirement, medical issues, and death are probably not attributed to God having called an insufficient number of men to the priesthood. That we have three priests retiring this year, we had two retire last year, and we will probably have another four retire next year while ordaining no priests in 2020, no priests in 2021, and only one priest 2022 are probably not attributed to God having called an insufficient number of men to the priesthood.

No, our vocations crisis stems from men not discerning that God is calling them to serve as priests, from men discerning their priestly call but not acting on it for any number of reasons, and from men discerning the call but being turned away before they enter seminary. In other words, it is likely that God is calling a sufficient number of men to the priesthood, maybe even an abundance. As usual, it is not God who fails us, but we who fail God and one another.

- Fr Booth