

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 11th/September 12th 2021: 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
16th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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: 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.

NOTE ON CONFESSIONS: If there is a significant line for confession, Fr Booth might say part of the formula of absolution while the penitent recites the act of contrition. The full formula of absolution is always said, but the first part might be said softly during the act of contrition. Thus, you might only hear “and I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

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 Robin Melendez, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 12th until September 18th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from September 19th until September 25th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, September 18th. 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 low Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

ST GEORGE MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL: The 39th Annual Saint George Middle Eastern Food Festival will be held September on 23rd, 24th, and 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 425 16th Avenue South. Traditional Middle Eastern entrees and desserts will be served. For menu and event details, please see <http://saintgeorgeonline.org/food-festival/>

TRADITIONIS CUSTODES: In response to Pope Francis’ recent *motu proprio* letter on the Latin Mass, Bishop Raica has graciously authorized and approved the continuation of the Latin Mass here at Blessed Sacrament.

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.

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, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Adam Sellers, and Dominic Rumore. May 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 \$10,587 and \$400 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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

Sat, Sept 11 4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Sept 12: 7:30 a.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Allison Jimenez (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Mon, Sept 13: *8:30 a.m. † Sam & Jennifer Buchanan (by Marian & Bill Dinan)
Tues, Sept 14: *8:30 a.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Wed, Sept 15: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for John Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellans)
*8:30 a.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Thur, Sept 16: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Lena Clare Cook (by the Donellans)
Fri, Sept 17: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Max Cook (by the Donellans)
*8:30 a.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sat, Sept 18 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellans)
4:00 p.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Sept 19: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellans)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for John Paul Hahn (by Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Allen Bull, Theresa Ragusa, Virginia Bullock, 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. 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 2:12,17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mk 9:30-37
7:30 a.m. 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46
9:00 a.m. 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 2:12,17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mk 9:30-37
10:45 a.m. 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46

Not Left to Chance, Not Left to Whimsy

Why is it important to recognize something like the fallacy of a false dichotomy? How does reducing our susceptibility to being bamboozled by clever arguments bring us closer to God or make obtaining heaven more likely? We should not have to look too far to find answers to these questions. First off, the serpent bamboozled Eve into partaking of the forbidden fruit. Like Eve, also wanting to be like God, the people building the Tower of Babel were convinced that obtaining heaven was a matter of making a tall enough building. The scribes and Pharisees were able to convince some people that Jesus performed His many miracles because He was supposedly in league with satan.

Over the centuries, many Israelites were lured away from the one true God by also worshipping the false gods of the pagans spurred on by logically flawed arguments. After all, isn't it better to have more than one god? Isn't it better to hedge your bets on many gods instead of just one? A gambler will tell you that you are much more likely to win if you play red or black on a roulette wheel rather than by putting everything on 29 black. Betting on red or black means that you win 47.4% of the time, but betting on one number wins only 2.6% of the time, albeit with a much higher payout. This math, and thus the reasoning, is true so long as any number or color wins (i.e., as if there are many gods), but if only 29 black wins, any other wager is foolhardy no matter how much more likely it might seem.

Of course God does not want us to gamble with our souls. Our salvation does not hinge on how a ball bounces around on a roulette wheel nor is it left to chance or luck. God has revealed Himself and He has done so throughout all the ages. *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands”* (Psalm 19:2), and *“For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made”* (Rom 1:19-20). That there is a God and that He is omnipotent are rationally perceivable and understandable by observing nature. Granted, attributes such as the precise nature of this evident God (e.g., that He is one God in three divine Persons) cannot be deduced from observing the created world, but studying and contemplating the vast universe and the laws of nature tell us much about God... but only if we are willing to perceive and to understand.

Words from the above verses – known, evident, understood, and perceived – all point to the critical role our intellect plays in our salvation. The idea of blind, irrational, or merely emotional faith is not what God wants from us. He wants us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him, all of which require a mind that knows, understands, and perceives. And if knowing, understanding, and perceiving are possible, then ignorance, misunderstanding, and misperceiving are also possibilities, possibilities that we must fervently guard against.

Not only does God want us to use our rational faculties to properly know, understand, and perceive for the sake of our salvation, our society once understood this as well apart from matters of faith and religion. Logic was once part of the high school curriculum and the importance of reasoning was stressed in all academic subjects because these qualities are essential for the functioning and wellbeing of a good and just society. For example, it is in everybody's best interest for juries to consist of citizens capable of rational thought and deliberation so that the evidence in a case can be weighed with due consideration. So called justice now often hinges on emotion, innuendo, half-truths, and outright lies. The less people are able to know, understand, and perceive the more they can be led astray by clever arguments and emotional manipulation. Sadly, juries are now often selected on the basis of how a potential juror might be swayed by emotion or innuendo instead of on their capacity for rationally and dispassionately weighing the facts and evidence presented in the courtroom.

Indeed, it is in everybody's best interest if we are able to know, reason, perceive, and choose rationally. God gave us our intellects and wills for a reason, primarily that we might choose salvation over perdition, but also that we might thrive in a well-regulated, ordered, and just society. - Fr Booth