

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 18th/September 19th 2021: 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
17th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 19th until September 25th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Shack Pruitt from September 26th until October 2nd.

THIRD SUNDAY: This 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/>

POOR OF JESUS FESTIVAL: Our Franciscans will have a Fall Festival next Saturday, September 25th at Our Lady of Fatima Church, located at 44 16th S Street 35205. The festival will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be free food and games.

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 \$5343 and \$175 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 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 the Hahn Family)
Mon, Sept 20:	*8:30 a.m.	† Osment & Mobley Families (by Marian & Bill Dinan)
Tues, Sept 21:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Georgia Caparos (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Sept 22:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Becket John Faulkner (by the Sampedros)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Stinson (by the Sampedros)
Thur, Sept 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Zoe Anders (by the Sampedros)
Fri, Sept 24:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Anthony Stanley (by the Stanley Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	† David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sat, Sept 25	4:00 p.m.	† David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Sept 26:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Dan Burke (by the Hahns)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Julie Hahn (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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.	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48
7:30 a.m.	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8
9:00 a.m.	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48
10:45 a.m.	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8

Uniquely Human

Knowing, reasoning, and perceiving are what we are meant to do. These higher faculties, specifically our intellect and our will, are what make us different and unique from the rest of the animal kingdom. No other animal is configured for knowing, loving, and serving God as we are. Only the angels, creatures but not animals, have the same mental faculties as we do and have the same basic vocation that we have, to know, love and serve the Lord. No other animal – dolphin, chimpanzee, elephant, whale, or whatever – can truly know, love, and serve the Lord. No other animal can build airplanes, create medicines, and form cultures. Then again, no other animal is capable of using airplanes as murder weapons, create deadly viruses, and destroy whole societies. No other animal has the capacity for true worship and idolatry, for discovering truths and fabricating lies, and for true self-awareness and true self-deception.

Indeed, good angels worship God while the demons fall into the idolatry of pride and self-love. While they have profound intellects but are not omniscient, both good and bad angels discover truths while only the fallen angels concoct lies. All of the angels are more aware and more self-aware than we are. However, of all of these qualities, self-deception seems to be unique to man. The angels are incapable of deceiving themselves, for they know what they know with no uncertainty. They know what they do and why they do what they do with no uncertainty: they can't be fooled from within or without. They know infallibly what they are: spiritual creatures.

We, on the other hand, often forget what we are. While we are vastly superior to any other animal, that does not make us equal with God. It does not even make us equal with the angels. Adam and Eve, along with millions or billions of others, wanted to be like God. More widespread is the malady of acting as if we are God, as if we can do as we please without constraint. Just because we are able to do something hardly means that we are therefore free to do so. We can murder babies in the womb surgically, with chemicals like the so-called morning after pill, and through hormonal birth control. We can also create human embryos, freeze them for later use, use them as we please, or even dispose of them as glibly as we might stomp on a bug. That we can do these things to our fellow man and that they happen to be legal does not mean that we ought to do them. We can create new, highly infectious, and deadly viruses and bacteria. Should we have done so? Should we do so in the future? Given the experience of the last 20 months that answer should be obvious, but sadly it is not. We manage healthcare to the point that we can deny life-saving drugs and treatments based on politics, on wanting to create a crisis, on wanting to perpetuate a crisis, and on wanting to punish some segments of our society. All of these constitute examples of man playing God even to the point of condemning millions of innocent people to death. All of these are examples of mankind's capacity for self-deception on a grand scale.

The ultimate self-deception, however, is that we can get away with such heinous crimes. When a child tries to outsmart his mother or father, how often do they succeed in the end? Yes, there might be momentary or occasional success, but how often will we be able to fool God? That we seldom were able to completely and constantly deceive our parents ought to be a lesson we take to heart. At times mom might have seemed all-knowing and all-seeing, she nonetheless has her limitations, limitations that will not hinder God in the slightest from knowing exactly what we have done.

So, how exactly do we avoid the pitfall of self-deception? It is pride that tees up the ball for us regarding self-deception, so it is humility that is necessary for us to be self-aware but not self-deceived. This essential humility needs to lead us to listen to God and do what He would have us do. Can we fall into the self-deception of trying to be like God or playing God if we listen to what He says and act in accordance with His will? Is it even conceivable that walking in God's ways could lead us astray, especially down the path of deceiving ourselves into thinking that we are like Him or that we have a right to act contrary to His will?

- Fr Booth