

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 25th/September 26th 2021: 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
18th 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 Shack Pruitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 26th until October 2nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen and Jack Schauer from October 3rd until October 9th.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on October 1st 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 October 2nd. 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.

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 \$5041 and \$525 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 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 Ben DiPiazza (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Mon, Sept 27: *8:30 a.m. † Montabano Family (by Marian & Bill Dinan)
Tues, Sept 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Zoe Anders (by the Sampedros)
Wed, Sept 29: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Julie Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jenny Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Sept 20: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Marc Ayers, Jr. (by the Hahn Family)
Fri, Oct 1: *8:30 a.m. † Mina Keasler (by Helen Brandley)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Pilar Carrillo (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Oct 2 8:30 a.m. † Sam Pilato (by Helen Brandley)
4:00 p.m. † Julia Bryant (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Oct 3: 7:30 a.m. † Dee Joseph (by Helen Brandley)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Ashley Hughes (by the Duvall Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially William Hull, 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. 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen 2:18-24, Heb 2:9-11, Mk 10:2-16
7:30 a.m. 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:23-28, Mt 22:1-14
9:00 a.m. 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen 2:18-24, Heb 2:9-11, Mk 10:2-16
10:45 a.m. 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:23-28, Mt 22:1-14

That Time Yet Again

It is that time of year again. Not football season. Not fall. Not back-to-school. Not the end of Daylight Savings. Not even everything pumpkin-spice-flavored season. No, it is Catholic Charities Pledge Sunday. Our diocese's Catholic Charities supports multiple offices and forms of outreach. Until recently, however, the specific scope and funding allocations were hardly public knowledge. In fact, a growing number of priests were becoming more and more frustrated at the lack of transparency with Catholic Charities. The priests were not alone in this. Not a few of the faithful shared that growing frustration.

It was hardly helpful when their marketing materials at times seemed oddly vague, oddly optimistic, oddly unrealistic, oddly contradictory, and oddly short on detail. At one point in the last 15 years, it was stated that 95% of the money raised went to the poor. For many priests, that statistic really did not ring true. The Catholic Centers for Concern, the primary outreach to the poor in our diocese, seemed grossly underfunded relative to the total amount raised each year. It might have been the intention of the one who voiced that statistic to say that the campaign itself had an overhead cost of only 5%, which seems accurate, but it does not necessarily follow that the remaining 95% is allocated to helping the poor. A few years later we heard that Catholic Charities funded the education of our seminarians. This contradicts the previous statistic even though our seminarians are hardly rich men. Then again, who could be against funding seminarians?

Another frustrating aspect was getting a firm statement that our Catholic Charities was not part of or associated with Catholic Charities, USA. This was a personal crusade on my part. Catholic Charities, USA has proven time and time again that it might technically be a charity according to federal law, but it does not always act with true Christian charity nor are its actions fully in line with Catholic moral norms. Much the same could be said of the Campaign for Human Development. Once the scandals regarding the Campaign for Human Development became more evident, we stopped taking up that special collection. Confirming that none of the Catholic Charities money was being funneled to the Campaign for Human Development became yet another personal crusade on my part. The response I got concerning both Catholic Charities, USA and the Campaign for Human Development was 'Trust us.'

While the Diocese of Birmingham is not now and to my knowledge never has been a fly-by-night, shady, or corrupt organization, the days when 'Trust us' passes muster are long gone. We are constantly reminded that trust without transparency is misplaced both outside and within the Church. Having heard the various concerns of the priests and deacons of the diocese, last year Bishop Raica chose to make Catholic Charities funding allocations much more transparent. Specifically, the budget can be broken down into four major areas:

Outreach to the Poor. In 2019, about \$1,208,000 went to the various Catholic Centers for Concern throughout the diocese. This represents about 31% of the Catholic Charities budget.

Family Services. Catholic Family Services received about \$603,000 in 2019 from Catholic Charities, which represents about 16% of the total budget.

Diocesan Offices. Various offices in the chancery were funded by Catholic Charities, including the Black Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Catholic Schools offices, among others, for a total of \$1,909,000. This was about 49% of the total Catholic Charities budget.

Outside Organizations. The Holy Land, Eastern Europe, the Vatican, and others got a total of \$154,000 which is 4% of the Catholic Charities budget. The Campaign for Human Development received a token \$1,000 while Catholic Charities, USA received nothing.

I sincerely hope that this transparency allays the fears that many shared regarding our Catholic Charities Appeal. Perhaps we might see this effort be renamed to something like the Bishop's Appeal, which is what many dioceses call similar fundraising campaigns. Indeed, such a title would not only be more accurate, it would certainly be more transparent.

- Fr Booth