

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**October 30th/October 31st 2021: 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Christ the King (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 Dickey Montalbano, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from October 31st to November 6th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Dennis G. Woods from November 7th until November 13th.

ALL SAINTS DAY: All Saints Day is Monday, November 1st. Since this feast falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. in the Church and a Latin High Mass at 6:00 p.m.

ALL SOULS DAY: All Souls Day is Monday, November 2nd. There will be an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. in the Church and a Latin High Mass at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on November 5th 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 November 6th. 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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4668, \$2150 was donated to the Preservation Fund, and \$871 was collected for World Mission Sunday. Many thanks for your generosity.

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 Christ the King (Sunday, October 31st), All Saints (Monday, November 1st), All Souls (Tuesday, November 2nd), Immaculate Conception (Wednesday, December 8th), and Christmas (Saturday, December 25th).

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)

Sun, Oct 31: 7:30 a.m. † Terry Lynch (by Cathy Schauer)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Terry Lynch (by Cathy Schauer)
Mon, Nov 1: 8:30 a.m. Pro Populo
6:00 p.m. Special Intention for Caden Tyler (by the Donellans)
Tues, Nov 2: 8:30 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory
6:00 p.m. † Souls in Purgatory
Wed, Nov 3: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Cora Duvall (by the Donellans)
*8:30 a.m. † Sam & Mary Montalbano (by Bill & Marian Dinan)
Thur, Nov 4: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Isbel Pinter (by the Donellans)
Fri, Nov 5: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Sophia Pinter (by the Donellans)
8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Turner Hill (by the Donellans)
Sat, Nov 6: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ben Rumore (by the Donellans)
4:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Nov 7: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Zellie Federle (by the Donellans)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Betsy Fleming (by the Donellans)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially William Hull, Theresa Ragusa, Gloria Archambault, Anthony Morris, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Sister Miracles, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, 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. 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	1Kings 17:10-16, Heb 9:24-28, Mk 12:38-44
7:30 a.m. 5 th Supplemental Mass after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30
9:00 a.m. 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	1Kings 17:10-16, Heb 9:24-28, Mk 12:38-44
10:45 a.m. 5 th Supplemental Mass after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30

Predetermined Choice?

I heard a scientist recently say that since all of life is based on chemistry, and since chemistry proceeds in an orderly and predictable way, then all biological events are preordained. She was not just talking about plants making food through photosynthesis or how our digestive system automatically digests food. In fact, this scientist insisted that all that has happened from the beginning of time is predetermined in a general sense even beyond the realm of biology because everything in the universe proceeds in an orderly and predictable way. The ice ages, the Civil War, Julius Caesar's death, the creation of life, the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, the choice to have a pepperoni pizza instead of a cheese pizza, and so on were infallibly destined to happen from the beginning of time. This scientist would say that all of the laws of science are deterministic – any seeming randomness is a function of our incomplete knowledge, not a manifestation that nature can be truly random – such that event A brings about event B which brings about events C, D, and E in a predictable and preordained sequence and timing. Thus, if we started all over again, Abraham Lincoln would be shot in Ford's theater in 1865 no matter how many times you turned back time and restarted the universe from scratch.

The most disturbing argument being made here is that we have no free will. Supposedly we do what we do because of the predictable biochemistry of our brains. Is there any evidence of this? Perhaps. A recent study using brain scans seemed to suggest that a decision is made before the person became aware that a decision was made. Not long before though: just a tiny fraction of a second separates the measured time of decision based on the brain scans from a man's perception that a decision was made. The implication is that free will is an illusion, that a decision is made before we think we make a choice. Is this true? Probably not. We might well freely choose pepperoni over cheese pizza but there might be a slight delay in our perception of that freely made decision. After all, why should we assume that the perceived awareness of the choice being made has to precede the freely made choice itself? Likewise, if our decisions are simple matters of predictable and determined biochemistry that were preordained by the universe billions of years ago, then why would we dither, change our minds, or chose not to chose? Why would we agonize over some decisions? Better yet, why would we regret many of our choices, why would we want a second chance to make a better or a different decision? Why would regret, shame, and embarrassment accompany many of our decisions while we might be proud of other decisions? No doubt, this scientist would claim that the emotions, dithering, mind-changing, and regret are all predetermined biochemical events as well. Right.

Her mistake is to reduce everything to what can be measured and described by science. She is free to believe this, that we were preordained to choose pepperoni over cheese pizza this week but make a different choice next week, but why would we be unconvinced? Quite simply, the implications are horrendous, and not because of pizza preference. If the holocaust, 9/11, war, genocide, abortion, slavery, child abuse, human trafficking, and so on are preordained and the result of mere chemistry and not abuse of human free will, then Katie bar the door. If we are not free to choose the good and reject that which is evil, then morality, legal responsibility, and justice become illusions.

A good test of this would be increasing or decreasing the number of police officers in a given city. If behavior is preordained, then fewer cops would not result in more crime and more cops would not result in less crime. We know what will happen, but then again the argument made will be that the increase or decrease in cops and the corresponding decrease or increase in crime was itself a preordained outcome just like the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

What this scientist has proposed might make sense to her and it might seem like science, but it is not science at all. The hypothesis that everything is preordained is untestable and therefore unprovable. An untestable hypothesis is not scientific. In any case, thinking like this is likely to become more common as faith in God becomes less common. Follow the science they say, but following God, the Author of science, seems a more prudent choice, a better exercise of our free will.

- Fr Booth