

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>/December 5<sup>th</sup> 2021: Second Sunday of Advent**



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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 Angela & Dominic Montalbano, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from December 5<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Hazel Melendez from December 12<sup>th</sup> until December 18<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.

**ADVENT ANGEL TREE:** We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local communality. Please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached by Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. We will have Mass in English at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Latin Masses will be offered on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**RORATE MASS:** There will be a Rorate Mass, a Latin Mass in honor of Our Lady, on Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 a.m.

**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.

**FIRST COMMUNION DATE:** For 2022, First Communion is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION DATE:** Our next confirmation is planned for Spring of 2023.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$4848 and \$675 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

**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 Immaculate Conception (Weds, December 8<sup>th</sup>), and Christmas (Sat, December 25<sup>th</sup>).

**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, Dec 4: 8:30 a.m. † Peter Davis (by the Botta Family)  
4:00 p.m. † Sheila Garner (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Dec 5: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jaycie Donellan (by the Hahn Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Scott & Lori Donellan (by the Hahns)

Mon, Dec 6: \*8:30 a.m. Private Intention

Tues, Dec 7: \*8:30 a.m. † Avis Booth (by the Bryant Family)  
6:00 p.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)

Wed, Dec 8: 7:00 a.m. † Jeremy Noblitt (by the Bryant Family)  
8:30 a.m. † Julia V. Bryant & Robert C. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)  
10:45a.m. † Julia V. Woods (by the Bryant Family)

Thur, Dec 9: \*8:30 a.m. † Dennis G. Woods (by the Bryant Family)

Fri, Dec 10: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Charlie Mathews (by the Hahn Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Dr. & Mrs. Delbert Hahn (by the Hahn Family)

Sat, Dec 11: 6:15 a.m. Special Intention for Grace Gagnon (by the Hahn Family)  
4:00 p.m. † David Weaver (by James Hammon)

Sun, Dec 12: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Andrew Rumore (by the Hahn Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Andrew Duryea (by the Hahns)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially William Hull, Gloria Archambault, 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. Third Sunday of Advent	Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18
7:30 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28
9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Zeph 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18
10:45 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Phil 4:4-7, Jn 1:19-28

## *Please, Lord, May It Be!*

For the first time in quite a while a longstanding issue might finally be headed for resolution. In fact, this is not just a longstanding issue, but an ongoing travesty of justice. This travesty has plagued the nation for nearly 50 years, an injustice foisted on our nation by the Supreme Court. In 1973 the Supreme Court somehow determined that there is a constitutional right to kill a child in the womb. Of course they did not use such frank but accurate terminology, instead choosing to talk in terms of terminating or discontinuing a pregnancy. After all, the nazis understood that they could not honestly describe what they were doing but chose euphemisms like ‘special treatment’ to describe persecution and abuse of those of Jewish descent, ‘special lodging’ to describe the concentration camps, and ‘final solution’ to stand for the systematic extermination of the Jews.

In any case, a challenge to a pro-life law recently passed in Mississippi has made it all of the way to the Supreme Court. This law, which is not an outright ban on abortion but limits abortions to the first fifteen weeks of pregnancy, represents one of the most restrictive laws enacted since 1973. Given what is at stake, until now both sides of the issue have been careful not to raise a significant abortion case to the Supreme Court level because the court could rule in an unwelcome manner.

Those who advocate for unborn children in the womb have feared that the court could more solidly affirm the supposed right to an abortion, making it even more difficult to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and save children’s lives. For example, *Roe v. Wade* allowed for unrestricted abortion in the first trimester and *Doe v. Bolton*, decided at the same time as *Roe v. Wade*, allowed for abortions in the second and third trimesters so long as the health of the mother was at issue. In 1992, the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* Supreme Court decision made placing legal restrictions on abortion much more difficult. The court ruled that no undue burdens could be placed on a woman’s access to abortion, making it virtually impossible to protect the lives of the unborn.

Pro-abortion advocates likewise fear that the court might rule definitively on significant restrictions to abortion. So, challenging the abortion laws of Mississippi is a gamble. A huge gamble. The court might cite *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* and strike down the prohibition of abortion after 15 weeks. Banning all abortions after 15 weeks is much more than a burden than requirements for waiting periods, mandatory ultrasounds, parental consent in the case of a minor mother, or consent of the child’s father, all of which have been struck down by the various courts based on *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

So, what is possible? It is entirely possible that the Supreme Court chooses to strike down Mississippi’s law and thus fails to do its obvious moral duty. How likely is this? The pro-abortion faction must think it is likely or else why would they risk taking this case all of the way to the Supreme Court. As recently as 2020 the Supreme Court ruled that a requirement for an abortionist to have admission privileges in a local hospital was an undue burden.

It is also possible that the court upholds the Mississippi law, which would basically undo *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* by allowing a significant burden, in fact a huge burden, being placed on access to abortion. This might also result in the end of *Doe v. Bolton* that allowed second and third trimester based on the ‘health’ of the mother where health of the mother was often interpreted in a uniquely broad fashion. Or it is entirely possible that the Supreme Court might strike down *Roe v. Wade* itself, taking *Doe v. Bolton* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* along with it. Let it be so!

If that happens, it is likely that abortion becomes a state issue under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It is unlikely that the court will act to ban abortion nationwide, but that it a possibility. Sadly, the court has acted quite contrary to the truth of recent, such as the ruling striking down all prohibitions against so-called same sex marriage, which is supposedly a constitutional right that oddly carries no responsibilities. Either way, while this specific case might be the best opportunity to undo *Roe v. Wade* and end all of the evil it has spawned in the last 49 years, it is most certain that nothing can be taken for granted other than the fact that praying for a righteous outcome is our best recourse.

- Fr Booth