

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*January 15th/January 16th 2022: 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
2nd Sunday after Epiphany (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 Neal Tallie, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from 16th to January 22nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Walter Roberts from January 23rd until January 29th.

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.

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.

2022 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 Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 10th) with the addition of Holy Thursday (Thursday, April 14th), Pentecost (Sunday, June 5th), Corpus Christi (Thursday, June 16th), Christ the King (Sunday, October 30th), All Saints (Tuesday, November 1st), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES for 2022, arranged alphabetically, are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: For 2022, First Communion is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 15th.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5970 and \$875 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, Jan 15:	9:15 a.m.	Special Intention for Elizabeth Harris Russell (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Jan 16:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Grace Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlie Mathews (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Jan 17:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jackson Mackin (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Jan 18:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlie Yaeger (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Jan 19:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Margaret Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Andrew Duryea (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Jan 20:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Peter Shields (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Jan 21:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Angela Renna (by the Donellan Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Samuel Duryea (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Jan 22:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Tom & Paula Pinter (by Tom & Paula Pinter)
Sun, Jan 23:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Beaumont (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Paul Phillip Clemens (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially James Cover, Fred Foster, 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.	3 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Neh 8:2-4,5-6,8-10, 1Cor 12:12-30, Lk 1:1-4;4:14-21
7:30 a.m.	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Rom 12:16-21, Mt 8:1-13
9:00 a.m.	3 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Neh 8:2-4,5-6,8-10, 1Cor 12:12-30, Lk 1:1-4;4:14-21
10:45 a.m.	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Rom 12:16-21, Mt 8:1-13

Adversity

Americans have a long history of overcoming all sorts of adversity. This is very much an American characteristic, as much as our industriousness and our capacity for innovation. But are we currently all that able to overcome adversity? Hard to say. Arguments can be made either way. If how we handled and continue to handle this pandemic becomes a measure of our ability to overcome adversity, there is a mixed bag of evidence as to whether or not we still weather adversity well.

One could argue that the rapid development of the covid vaccines demonstrates American innovation and capacity to overcome adversity. The gene sequence of the original virus was made available by the Chinese in early January of 2020. By the end of that same month, less than three weeks later, the vaccines were formulated and went into testing for safety and effectiveness. Less than three weeks. Utterly remarkable. A bit less than a year later, these vaccines began to be administered to the public. This represents a development time from incept to deployment that was about 10 times faster than what is normal for a modern vaccine and seven times faster than the most rapidly developed vaccine prior to covid.

Effectiveness was claimed to be 90-95% against infection for the original strain, so effective that we were promised herd immunity by spring of 2021. The vaccines proved significantly less protective against the delta strain, which was over twice as contagious as the original covid virus while being about twice as likely to result in a trip to the ICU and more likely to result in death. Given the advent of the deadlier and more contagious delta variant, first detected in December of 2020, one might have expected a vaccine for this strain being developed even faster than the original vaccines. Nope. Clearly the delta strain represents a greater adversity than the original covid virus, a challenge that went totally unanswered. Given that an omicron variant vaccine will be available just over three months after it was detected, one wonders why a vaccine against the deadly delta variant was not pursued at all.

In any case, America tends to overcome adversity by pulling together and uniting against the threat. We were quite divided prior to the Revolutionary War, before World War I, before World War II, and before 9/11. We overcame these events by putting aside our differences in order to unite in a common cause. When we failed to overcome – Korea, Vietnam, and the Second Gulf War – we failed to unite and became more polarized in the end. It is beginning to look like covid will be a struggle that deepens our divisions and perhaps will do so more profoundly than any other crisis we have faced thus far.

Indeed, the politicization of covid and the attending propaganda seem designed to divide us, to separate us into the virtuous and the contemptible. The willingness of some to brand the unvaccinated as low-grade morons, nazis, domestic terrorists, and racists is almost as troubling as how tactics right out of the nazi/communist/fascist playbook are used against those who opt, for whatever reason, to remain unvaccinated. In some countries, internment camps have been used, citizenship has effectively been suspended, and basic human rights are no longer observed. If such tactics come to these shores, we will end up much more divided than we were following Vietnam or even the Civil War.

Thus, it is imperative that people of faith recognize that God is our true unifying principle and that any form of division introduced into the Church, where some are deemed virtuous and others contemptible, poses a grave threat to the salvation of souls. After all, Jesus did not die for some but for all. We as a culture have long ago failed to note that our greatest adversity is not a pandemic, climate change, or even war. It is sin. Our greatest adversaries are not the politically incorrect or the unvaccinated – our fellow man – but satan and his minions. Indeed, satan is our dividing principle.

It is also imperative for people of faith to remember that God is not only the universal unifying principle of mankind, He is also the ultimate the remedy for all that vexes us. Covid, cancer, war, famine, totalitarian governments, and the like are powerless to separate from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:31-39). *“No, in all these [adversities] we conquer overwhelmingly through Him who loved us”* (Rom 8:37).

- Fr Booth