

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*January 29th/January 30th 2022: 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
4th Sunday after Epiphany (Latin)*



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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 Maxine Olson, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from January 29th to February 5th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Chester Olson from February 6th until February 12th.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our 1st Friday English Mass on February 4th 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: 1st Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on February 5th.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

ALL MEN INTERESTED IN A PRIESTLY VOCATION are invited by the Office of Vocations to a Priesthood Discernment Weekend for single men ages 18-40 years. It will be from Friday, February 18th to Sunday, February 20th at Casa Maria. To register or for more information, go to birminghamvocations.com

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.

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 29:	4:00 p.m.	† Mary Cavanaugh (by the Juneau Family)
Sun, Jan 30:	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)
Mon, Jan 31:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Ava Duvall (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Feb 1:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Michela Botta (by the Clemens Family)
Wed, Jan 2:	*7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Clara Colicchio (by the Clemens Family)
	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Leo Crittendon (by the Clemens Family)
Thur, Jan 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Amelia Grace Federle (by the Clemens Family)
Fri, Jan 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Anna Catherine Gagnon (by the Clemens Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for Corine Hill (by the Clemens Family)
Sat, Jan 5:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Gregory Hiserman (by the Clemens Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Mary Cavanaugh (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Jan 6:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Booth (by the Juneau Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Brendan Smith (by Sophie Duvall)

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.	5 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 6:1-2,3-8, 1Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11
7:30 a.m.	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30
9:00 a.m.	5 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 6:1-2,3-8, 1Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11
10:45 a.m.	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30

Rationally Social

St Thomas Aquinas defined man as a rational animal. By that he meant that we share a nature with other animals. Like other animals, we are sentient, we have emotions, we respond to our environment, we have a memory, and so on. Unlike any other animal, however, we are rational, meaning that we are able to think and to choose freely. Our intellects and our wills allow us to think our own thoughts, recall memories on demand, and make our own choices. We can think thoughts that transcend our own experiences, like imagining space travel or contemplating microscopic realities, and we can engage in abstract thought such as mathematics. We also are able to agonize over decisions that might be real or theoretical. Should I marry or enter religious life? If I was president in 1945, would I have dropped the atomic bombs on Japan? Such thoughts would never materialize in the minds of mere animals. While we are quite able to suppress our intellect and will, putting our rational nature aside and living as animals, we are truly meant for our rational nature to transcend and regulate our animal nature.

Besides being rational animals, we are also social animals. In Genesis we read that the “*Lord God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the Lord God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man. So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, the man said: ‘This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called woman, for out of man this one has been taken.’*” (Gen 2:18-23). We are not meant for a solitary existence, we are not to be like many predators, lone hunters within a given territory, socializing only for the sake of propagating the species. Thus, we are not like bobcats living alone and hunting within our personal territories. Are we then more like wolves, forming packs consisting of family members, hunting as a group within their territory? As social as wolves are, this still does not describe man’s social nature.

One way to consider how we are meant to be social is to return to how we were created. “*God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth*” (Gen 1:27-28). Husband and wife are to be fruitful and multiply, thus forming families. But our domain, our territory, is not a few acres of land defended and worked by a lone family. Mankind’s territory is the earth. The Bible certainly affirms personal land ownership, but the only way we can fill and subdue the earth is as a human community as a whole.

While the basic human social unit is the family consisting of one man, one woman, and their children, our social nature is not fully expressed in the family itself. While having our personal territory, be it a farm, a house or an apartment, we are not meant to confine ourselves to that territory but to freely go forth into the broader community. The bobcat is focused on himself and the wolf on his pack, but we need and are needed by a community much broader than our own families. The supply chain issues we have faced recently brings this reality into sharper focus. Bobcats and wolves are immune to what other bobcats and wolves do ten miles away, but we are subject to the effects of human affairs over the horizon and even on the other side of the planet.

Beyond economic and political impacts on human social interaction, there are personal social considerations that cannot be ignored. Covid has brought social distancing, masks, and lockdowns. All of these, perhaps necessary in the short term, will cause damage to our social nature. We are not meant to shy away from one another, to conceal our facial expressions, or isolate ourselves. All of these will have an impact on how we relate to one another and will likely foster antisocial behaviors, behaviors that betray our rational nature.

- Fr Booth