

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 19th/February 20th 2022: 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Sexagesima (Latin)



1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840

E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
Website: www.myblessedsacrament.org

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 Gary Wolter, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 20th to February 26th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Salvatore and Mary Riccardi from February 27th until March 5th.

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.

WELCOME SR LUZ: We have a new sister, Sr Luz, who arrived last week. Please welcome her. She will be replacing Sr Clara who will be returning to Brazil in March.

REFINISHING THE BALDACHIN: Pending the Bishop’s approval, the bronze structure over the High Altar, which is called a baldachin, will be professionally polished and repaired in the next few weeks. This will cause some changes in how we celebrate 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 STATEMENTS for 2021 have been mailed.

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 and the previous week was \$6447 and \$275 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a seven-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Feb 19: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Robert Hill (by Mary Margaret Rumore)
4:00 p.m. † Mary Cavanaugh (by Carolyn Mickel)

Sun, Feb 20: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Moe Luyben (by Mary Margaret Rumore)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Zachary Hill (by Mary Margaret Rumore)

Mon, Feb 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Michael Hill (by Mary Margaret Rumore)

Tues, Feb 22: *8:30 a.m. † Mary Cooper (by the Donellan Family)

Wed, Feb 23: *7:00 a.m. † Freddie Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Thellis Williamson (by the Donellan Family)

Thur, Feb 24: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Bill and Judy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

Fri, Feb 25: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Zachary Archer (by the Donellan Family)

Sat, Feb 26: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)

Sun, Feb 27: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for John Anthony & Mary Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charlie & Allison Rumore (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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. 8 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 27:4-7, 1Cor 15:54-58, Lk 6:39-45
7:30 a.m. Quinquagesima	1Cor 13:1-13, Lk 18:31-43
9:00 a.m. 8 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 27:4-7, 1Cor 15:54-58, Lk 6:39-45
10:45 a.m. Quinquagesima	1Cor 13:1-13, Lk 18:31-43

You Can't Make This Stuff Up!

As they say, reality is stranger than fiction. For example, having written last week about the perils of social media, someone comes along and demonstrates those very perils as if on cue. Having said that 'social media is chock full of all sorts of things that are hardly edifying. In fact the amount of gossip, slander, and detraction is shocking,' an example of all these things was provided on Tuesday of this week. It happened on a facebook page used by some parishioners but certainly not an official Blessed Sacrament page: there is not now nor will there ever be an official parish facebook page.

In any case, someone ranted in a very uncharitable and certainly unchristian way against, of all things, our lovely sisters. The Ranter, sadly a parishioner, called the sisters occupiers of their house and went so far as to say that the sisters did nothing for the parish. Seriously? He went further to imply that someone else ought to support the sisters and it would be better if our church doors were refinished instead. So, the Ranter wants shiny doors but not nuns praying and serving the poor? Their prayers won't get the doors refinished, according to the Ranter. Wow. Just wow. Such disdain for women, who have uprooted themselves from their native land, taken vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, living primarily on providence, and serving God by serving the poorest of the poor in Birmingham. Shameful. It is shameful to consider them a drain on our parish, but incomprehensibly moronic to say that shiny church doors are preferred.

It seems the Ranter was triggered by the sisters' accommodations needing to be expanded because more sisters will be arriving this year. Yes, something will need to be done to house additional sisters. What this exactly means is being discussed but has not been finalized. No matter, having more sisters here at Blessed Sacrament will be a fundamental blessing to the parish, even if the Ranter is too blind to recognize how we have been blessed thus far.

How have the sisters blessed us? With their prayers and with their presence. This is their home and this is their parish. For the Ranter to dismiss them and to attack their presence here is to attack fellow parishioners, not some outsiders or interlopers. Then again, attacking the sisters is an easy target for the Ranter. He probably does not know their names. They are 'Them' to him, an easy scapegoat to blame for not having shiny doors. Yes, the sisters are fairly new parishioners, and that is another common point of discrimination. That they, and many others, have not been at Blessed Sacrament for five generations is neither here nor there. Some, especially on this facebook page, make length of membership some sort of distinction. The term parishioner applies equally irrespective how long someone has been here. In any case, because we have the sisters we have been blessed with at least a dozen or perhaps two dozen new families. Shiny doors, uncharitable facebook rants, and seeing others as 'Them' will bring in zero new families.

As for the cost of what the Ranter calls a complete renovation of the sister's house, it is true that this did cost the parish a sum of money. The fuller truth is that the parish fund-raised the total estimated cost of the complete renovation so that no parish funds would be necessary. The Renovator, sadly, was not up to the task and failed to have the house in even a reasonably livable condition (there wasn't even drywall) when the friars arrived as scheduled to occupy the house. By the time the Renovator walked away from the project, the renovation was hardly complete and the costs were overrun by about 110%, and it was this overrun amount that was paid for by the parish. That 110% does not include work the friars and sisters have had done since, such as having the electrical work completed as well as having to replace the brand-new kitchen floor and the brand-new shower because both were installed incorrectly. As it happens, the Ranter, who complained about the cost of the renovation of the sister's house being paid by the parish, also happened to be the Renovator. The Ranter complains about the sisters' house renovation costing the parish, costs he himself is responsible for. Again, you can't make this stuff up.

One of the benefits of social media is that past mistakes can be edited and deleted. However, editing and deleting are no substitutes for not having said unwise, uncharitable, and unchristian things in the first place. Editing and deleting are hardly evidence of sorrow and certainly do not equate to seeking forgiveness.

- Fr Booth