

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 5th / March 6th 2022: 8th First Sunday of Lent



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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.

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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 Robert C. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 6th until March 12th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Crawford Mabee from March 13th until March 19th.

WELCOME SR ISABEL: Again we are blessed with a new sister, Sr Isabel, who arrived this week. Please welcome her.

REFINISHING THE BALDACHIN: The Bishop has approved the professional polishing of the bronze structure over the High Altar, which is called a baldachin. Work should begin quite soon and will cause some changes in how we celebrate Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, April 15th it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

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).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week and the previous week was \$5730 and \$825 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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, Mar 5: 8:30 a.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Mar 6: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Dr. & Mrs. Irwin (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Dr. & Mrs. Mathews (by the Hahn Family)

Mon, Mar 7: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Marc Ayers, Jr. (by the Hahn Family)

Tues, Mar 8: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Nathan Wright, Jr. (by the Hahn Family)

Wed, Mar 9: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for the Apostoli Viae Community (by the Hahn Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Juwana F. Kennedy Ward (by Helen Brandley)

Thur, Mar 10: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Colorie Medina (by Jillian Wernke)

Fri, Mar 11: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Colorie Medina (by Jillian Wernke)
*8:30 a.m. † Holy Souls in Purgatory (by Jillian Wernke)

Sat, Mar 12: 4:00 p.m. † Jonathan Riddle (by Linda Miller)

Sun, Mar 13: 7:30 a.m. Carlie Carruba (by Cathy Schauer)
9:00 a.m. Carlie Carruba (by Ann Noblitt and Ginny Daniel)
10:45 a.m. Pro Populo

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Gloria Archambault, James Bonner, Matthew Clune Sr., Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, 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. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 15:5-12,17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Lk 9:28-36
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 15:5-12,17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Lk 9:28-36
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

Temptation

The third chapter of Genesis describes mankind's fall from God's grace. We read that "*the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He asked the woman, 'Did God really say, You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the snake: 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.' But the snake said to the woman: 'You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil'*" (Gen 3:1-5).

Satan tempts Eve – and Adam was right there by her side during her temptation – and she takes the bait. Seeing that Eve did not die when she touched the fruit nor when she ate of it, Adam follows suit and all of mankind falls into sin along with them through temptation. Thus, it should not surprise us that Jesus is tempted as well. Satan has to think it worked the first time, why shouldn't work again? What bolsters satan's confidence in trying to entice Jesus to sin is how successful he has been in helping generation after generation of men fall into temptation and being led deeper and deeper into slavery to sin. Although satan knows that few people will be so bold and idiotic as to fall down and worship him, he will settle for us rebelling against our Creator. He knows that offending God through sin leads us infallibly to his kingdom, so it is good enough that we might become satan's subjects even if we have the sense not to worship him.

To successfully fight the temptations that come our way, we need to understand that the tempter is indeed cunning, more cunning than any of us will ever be, and we need to understand the very nature of what temptation to sin truly is. It is a fool's errand to try to outwit satan, therefore we need to understand what temptation is in order to protect ourselves from falling.

There are two fundamental aspects of temptation that we must grasp. First, notice how satan tries to question the goodness and the wisdom of the One who gives us the moral law. Did God really say... Imagine where this question leads. Did God really say that we can't lie even if it is beneficial? Did God really say that we have to love everyone, can't we just hate some people? Did God really say we can't use contraceptives, that we mustn't 'terminate a pregnancy' through abortion, that we can't fornicate or commit adultery, that we can't live together before marriage, that we can't divorce and remarry on our terms, that two men or two women can't marry?

And once we question the goodness and wisdom of God, we are open to the second pitfall of temptation: we begin to believe in our own goodness and wisdom. In other words, we begin to think we are like gods and we begin to formulate our own moral code, to think we know what is good and what is evil. We might happen to agree with God in some areas, but not because of God's goodness and wisdom, but because we are good enough and wise enough, occasionally, to recognize the truth.

Therefore, when we find ourselves suffering from temptation, we must remind ourselves that no one is as good as or wiser than God. We might not be able to comprehend the totality of His wisdom and goodness, but that is all the more reason to subject ourselves to His moral truth. And if we doubt God's goodness and wisdom, aren't we also doubting His love for us?

Likewise, we need to ask ourselves where in our lives we are the authors of our own moral code, where we have declared evil to be good, and where we have deemed grave sin to be essentially inconsequential. We might not realize that we have done this, but we all rationalize our sins, either by telling ourselves that sin is not sin or by believing that our serious sins are really quite minor infractions or breaking a mere rule. It's only gossip. It's an expression of love for my fiancé. It's not like ending a pregnancy murdering anyone. And so on.

Thus, our personal response to temptation must first recognize God's goodness and wisdom. This should lead us to understand that the moral law is not simply an expression of God's sovereignty but an expression of His love for us. And if we have defined our own moral code, we are rejecting God's goodness and wisdom for our own and we are embracing self-love.

- Fr Booth