

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 16th / April 17th 2022: Easter



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
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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: Saturday 3:30-3:55 p.m., Sunday 7:00-7:25, 8:30-8:55, and 10:15- 10:40 a.m.

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.

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 Eugene Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 17th to April 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ronnie Mason from April 24th until April 30th.

THIRD SUNDAY POTLUCKS: There will not be a potluck following the 10:45 Mass on the third Sunday of April (Easter Sunday) or the third Sunday of May (First Communion).

GOLF FORE LIFE: The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, May 20th at Highland Park Golf Course. Highland Golf Course is a great course and fun for golfers of all skill levels. Please come play golf and help raise money for Her Choice, a pro-life pregnancy resource center. Lunch will be provided beginning at 12:00 p.m. and tee-off will be at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$250 (\$125 of which is tax deductible) per individual golfer and prizes will be awarded immediately following the tournament. Questions can be directed to Jim Pinto at (205) 447-8796 or Her Choice at (205) 252-0706. Please register at <http://www.herchoicebirmingham.org/gfl/form.htm>

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 with the addition of Corpus Christi (Thursday, June 16th), All Saints (Tuesday, November 1st), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$8584 and \$825 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: For 2022, First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, May 15th. A there will be a rehearsal on Saturday, May 14th as well as opportunities for making first confessions.

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, Apr 16: 8:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Apr 17: 7:30 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Joy Martin (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Apr 18: *8:30 a.m. † Charlene Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Apr 19: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Mathews Family (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Apr 20: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Peter & Sharon Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Margaret Mary Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Apr 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Danielle Hesley (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Apr 22: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Allison Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Lena Cook (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Apr 23: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Apr 24: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Doenllan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Joe Grelier (by Terry & Charlotte Rumore)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Josie Nickell, 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, 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 Easter	Acts 5:12-16, Rev 1:9-11,12-13,17-19, Jn 20:19-31
7:30 a.m. Low Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:12-16, Rev 1:9-11,12-13,17-19, Jn 20:19-31
10:45 a.m. Low Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31

Fan or Disciple?

Jesus is risen, risen indeed. He makes a number of appearances before He ascends into heaven forty days later. Some of these appearances involved one or a few individuals, some were to the remaining Apostles, and one involved Jesus appearing before about 500 men. Leading up to Pentecost, there were about 120 devout followers of Christ. At Pentecost, the effects of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles brought the number of believers to over 3000. This clearly points to explosive growth of the faith, from perhaps two dozen on Good Friday to thousands just fifty days later.

Or is this really explosive growth? It depends. If we take for our point of reference the Apostles and a few other stouthearted believers still following Jesus at the time of His crucifixion, yes that is a fantastic growth rate. Considering, however, that Jesus would have spoken to and performed miracles for tens of thousands, more likely hundreds of thousands of people during His three years of ministry, that growth is hardly impressive. Where were the 9000 men, not including the women and children who were present, that were fed the two times Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes? Where were the thousands of lepers, crippled, blind, lame, deaf, paralyzed, and possessed people that Jesus had cured? Where were those who were raised from the dead and their families? Why don't we hear of Jairus and his daughter or from Martha, Mary, and Lazarus after the resurrection of Jesus?

No doubt some would go on to lead a quiet life of Christian discipleship. Perhaps Martha, Mary, and Lazarus left the vicinity of Jerusalem because the Temple authorities were also seeking to kill Lazarus, perhaps abandoning their home but not their faith. But given the number of people who saw and heard Jesus during His ministry, wouldn't the news of the Resurrection have ignited the faith of those who once marveled at His words and were astonished at His works? One would think that people would return to a risen Jesus more readily than the Jesus they had seen and heard previously.

So, what is the impediment? Marveling and astonishment are not the basis of Christian discipleship. After all, how many disciples did Harry Houdini, David Copperfield, Penn and Teller, Harry Blackstone, or David Blaine gather in their careers? They have defied death, levitated, flown, made huge objects like cars, elephants, and even the Statue of Liberty disappear, caught bullets in their teeth, and so on, but as marvelous and astonishing as these spectacles are, people know that they are mere illusions and performances. We know that the elephant did not really vanish, that the death-defying stunt is far safer and less perilous than it seems. Magicians and illusionists are hardly new professions, so it might have been easy for people to write off Jesus' signs and wonders as things that seemed to happen as opposed to the true miracles they were.

It can be said that a magician or illusionist gathers fans, not disciples. Those astonished by Jesus' teaching and His miracles would be best described as fans, perhaps even fair-weather fans. This should not be surprising. Consider the Israelites' liberation from Egypt. They saw ten plagues inflicted on the Egyptians but they went untouched. They saw Moses lead them out of slavery. They saw God provide manna and water in the desert. They saw God part the Red Sea so that they could cross dryshod. They saw God destroy the Egyptian army by making the sea swallow up their soldiers and chariots. Sure they saw these things, but did it translate into trust that God would take care of them? Having seen the mighty Egypt defeated, did they trust that God would deliver the Promised Land to them? Were the peoples occupying the Promised Land – the Canaanites, Amorites, Gergashites, Hittites, Hivites, Jebusites and Perizzites – more imposing than the mighty Egyptians? Hardly.

So it is clear that the Israelites lacked faith in God and wandered for forty years in the desert as a result. They also lacked the virtue of hope, the virtue by which we place our trust in God and His promises. Signs and wonders produced amazement, not faith, they produced fans, not disciples. The same applies to the witnesses of Jesus' teaching and miracles. The Resurrection, the ultimate miracle, stands as the basis of Christian faith. That faith ought to lead to hope, trust in the promises made to those who practice the faith, and love for God and neighbor. Indeed, it is faith, hope and love that distinguish the disciple of Jesus from the mere fan.

- Fr Booth