

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 23rd/April 24th 2022: Divine Mercy Sunday



**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 Ronnie Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 24th to April 30th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Tony Melendez from May 1st until May 7th.

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

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).

SPRINGFEST 2022 at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Adamsville will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st. Come for our authentic spaghetti dinner and homemade desserts. Our Raffle will have ten \$100 winners and a grand prize winner of \$1,500. There will be a cake booth with homemade cakes, KidZone with inflatables and games, and our Auction with so many great packages. Check out our website at www.saintpatrickcc.com

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$12,094 and \$525 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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).

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 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)
Mon, Apr 25: *8:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Tues, Apr 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Fr Bryan Jerabek (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Wed, Apr 27: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Anthony Rumore (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
*8:30 a.m. † Ray Walker (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Thur, Apr 28: *8:30 a.m. † Margaret Smith (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Fri, Apr 29: *7:00 a.m. † Ann Roberts (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
*8:30 a.m. † Joy Martin (by Monica Duvall)
Sat, Apr 30: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Jacob Duryea (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, May 1: 7:30 a.m. † Ann & Walter Roberts (by Maria and Bernie Morin)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Andrew Maenza (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Josie Nickell, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, 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. Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:27-32,40-41, Rev 5:11-14, Jn 21:1-19
7:30 a.m. St Joseph the Worker	Col 3:14-15,17,23-24, Mt 13:54-58
9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:27-32,40-41, Rev 5:11-14, Jn 21:1-19
10:45 a.m. St Joseph the Worker	Col 3:14-15,17,23-24, Mt 13:54-58

Mercy, One of Our Most Essential Needs

Some products just sell themselves, you don't need a salesman or an advertising campaign. For example, when a real cold snap occurs, warm clothing tends to fly off the shelf. During the winter of 1993-94, I was sent by my company to northern Indiana on a long term assignment. It turns out that this occurred just as Alabama and the upper midwest both experienced unusually cold weather: single digits in Alabama, 25 below in Indiana. I had enough warm clothes for Alabama, but I did not have clothes suitable for subzero temperatures expected in Indiana. What I needed most was a warm hat. I searched and I searched and could only find one hat that I would not otherwise have worn: everything else was sold out. I bought it and actually wore it, hating every second of it, but knowing that I would not have frostbitten ears made that nasty hat tolerable. That hat sold itself to me and I bought and wore it reluctantly, happily giving it away when it was no longer a necessity.

But other products need salesmen. It is said that a really good salesman could sell a refrigerator to an eskimo. I suppose that same salesman could sell ugly winter hats to people living on the equator. Part of a salesman's job is to sell you something you don't need, something more than you need, or something you don't really want. Selling refrigerators to people living in igloos requires a skilled salesman, but selling parkas, long johns, and gloves to eskimos should be a no-brainer. It ought to be and no-brainer, but sometimes we refuse to buy the things we truly need. One of my confirmation students in Boston refused to wear gloves, a hat, or a coat even when it was 10 or 15 degrees outside. As smart as this young lady was, she would be seen waiting for her school bus wearing jeans and a short sleeve shirt pretending not to be cold.

The pastor, the director of religious education, and others had offered to buy her proper cold weather attire. She would have nothing to do with it. She could not be talked into it at all. Wearing warm clothes during a Boston winter should have been a no-brainer. Giving warm clothing to someone in Boston should also have been about the easiest sales job possible. Not for this young lady. Clearly pride and stubbornness were at work. She needed warm clothes for her own wellbeing and she needed to wear them. But she did not acknowledge or embrace this obvious need. She preferred to pretend not to be cold, perhaps thinking she was cool, instead of actually being warm.

We can look at this young lady and say that she was being foolish. She had people who cared for her and wanted what was best for her. She had people willing to give her the clothing that she clearly needed. She had an obvious need that she refused to acknowledge. It turns out that she is not alone in this prideful stubbornness. We all tend to overlook some of our most essential needs, and one of those essential needs is for God's mercy. Many people today refuse to recognize their need to be forgiven. Like that young lady, they pretend that all is well when just the opposite is true. Like that young lady, they refuse the remedy for their need even when that remedy is offered for free. Through Jesus Christ, God offers us the mercy we truly need and yet so many fail to take God up on His offer to be recipients of His gracious mercy. All we have to do is admit the need by confessing our sins and accept the gift of forgiveness. It is that simple.

Jesus left His Church with the spiritual medicine we need, medicine that is administered to us through the sacraments. In saying to the Apostles "*Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*" Jesus entrusted the Church with His own power to forgive, to be an agent of His boundless mercy.

Our challenge is to admit our need and to accept the mercy God offers us through the sacrament of confession. Like that young lady, if we do not admit the need and accept the remedy for that need, we won't be fooling anyone but ourselves. Indeed, there is a huge difference between being warm and pretending to be warm. There is an even bigger difference between being reconciled with God and pretending to be in His good graces. That young lady was fooling no one, and we would be even bigger fools if we think that we can pull the wool over God's eyes.

- Fr Booth