

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

*May 14<sup>th</sup>/May 15<sup>th</sup> 2022: Fifth Sunday of Easter (English)  
Fourth Sunday after Easter (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211  
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Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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: 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, to aid in the social distancing, and continues 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 August & Josephine Nettleman, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Sr. from May 22<sup>nd</sup> until May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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).

**MORNING WITH MARY:** All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

**GOLF FORE LIFE:** The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 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 \$8787, \$675 was donated to the Preservation Fund, and \$904 was given for the Catholic Home Missions. 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 16<sup>th</sup>), All Saints (Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>).

**FIRST COMMUNION DATE:** First Communion is at 10:45 a.m. this Sunday.

**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, May 14: 4:00 p.m. † Jerry Bryant (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
Sun, May 15: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Sheila Muck (by the Duvall Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. † Marilyn West (by the Juneau Family)  
Mon, May 16: \*8:30 a.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
Tues, May 17: \*8:30 a.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
Wed, May 18: \*7:00 a.m. † Marilyn West (by the Juneau Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
Thur, May 19: \*8:30 a.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
Fri, May 20: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Adela Gilbert (by the Sampedros)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Jerry Bryant (by St Bernadette's Band)  
Sat, May 21: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for all BSC Altar Servers (by the Sampedros)  
4:00 p.m. † Jerry Bryant (by Chuck Bryant)  
Sun, May 22: 7:30 a.m. † Jerry Bryant (by the Noblitt Family & Ginny Daniel)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. † Jerry Bryant (by Cathy Schauer)

**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**

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00 p.m. Sixth Sunday of Easter     | Acts 15:1-2,22-29, Rev 21:10-14,22-23, Jn 14:23-29 |
| 7:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Easter  | James 1:22-27, Jn 16:23-30                         |
| 9:00 a.m. Sixth Sunday of Easter     | Acts 15:1-2,22-29, Rev 21:10-14,22-23, Jn 14:23-29 |
| 10:45 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Easter | James 1:22-27, Jn 16:23-30                         |

## *Holy Communion*

How long ago was your First Communion? We may or may not remember much about it. We might remember the dress or suit. We might remember the party or reception afterwards. We might remember some of those who received the Eucharist with us for the first time. Or we might not remember much at all. A friend of mine basically can't remember anything. He has a photograph of the occasion but does not really know what parish, what city, or what state in which he received First Communion. Being in a military family, he was able to narrow it down to the base chapel of Ft. Rucker or Ft. Bliss given where his father was posted at the time when he received First Communion. His father, mother, and older brothers and sisters were not sure either. Some of his siblings were in the same boat he was, not knowing for sure where they received First Holy Communion. The Army moved them a lot, so much so that Ft. Rucker and Ft. Bliss are only educated guesses.

What matters more than when and where he first received Jesus in the Eucharist is that he received Jesus in the Eucharist. That is the main event irrespective of where it occurred. Also of importance, again more so than when and where, was how he received Jesus. Did he receive Jesus with reverence or in a blasé manner? Was he thankful more for the Eucharist than the cake and gifts that followed? Was his first confession a good one? Did he just go through the motions or did he examine his conscience to the best of his ability? Did he go to confession more than once before First Communion? Having known this man for a long time, I can say that he probably needed to go to confession several times before receiving the Eucharist, and he probably did. In any case, precise answers to the foregoing questions are lost to the passage of time.

It might seem to be a bit of a shame that my friend does not know the answers to these questions, but that really it is hardly a shame at all. Yes, First Communion is a special event, but can we say that the 100<sup>th</sup> or the 1,000<sup>th</sup> or the 10,000<sup>th</sup> reception of Jesus is any less special? Is it not the same Jesus present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity today as it was when we first received? Are we not the same person, perhaps wiser or not, perhaps holier or not, perhaps more appreciative or not, perhaps smarter or not, but certainly older?

Given that some of our young people will receive First Communion this weekend, we each ought to recall what this great gift means to us. The objective reality, that Jesus comes to us truly present in the Eucharist veiled under the accidents of the host, remains the same. Whether we have perfect recollection of our First Communion or not, the objective reality is the same and will always be the same. The subjective experience, however, probably won't be the same because we are no longer seven or eight years old. Whether we are seventeen or seventy, we ought to strive to receive Jesus as if we are doing so for the first time. After all, how can the reception of the Second Person of the Trinity become routine? Yet for many people, this is exactly what happens.

Likewise, we must admit that none of us knows exactly when our last day will be. It might be ten years hence, fifty years hence, or tomorrow. We simply can't be sure. Given that this Mass or the next one or the one after that might be our last opportunity to receive Holy Communion, how ought we receive Jesus? Would it be more intense? More meaningful? More reverent? Subjectively, it might seem that way, but again the objective reality remains the same.

What if we were given just one opportunity to receive Jesus in the Eucharist? This ought to be much like receiving for the last time. We would probably make sure we were in a state of grace by going to confession. We would try to get the most out of Communion that we could. The knowledge that this would be our one and only Communion would certainly focus us. Again, this is objectively no different than receiving Jesus as a child, all through our lives, and on our deathbed.

In other words, we ought to receive Jesus in the Eucharist as if it was the first time, the last time, and the only time. That we might receive Communion several thousand times in our lives does not diminish the significance of the first, the next, or the last time we receive.

- Fr Booth

