

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 21st/May 22nd 2022: Sixth Sunday of Easter (English)

Fifth Sunday after Easter (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: 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 Edward Von Hagel, Sr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from May 22nd to May 28th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Glenn A. Varnell from May 29th until June 4th.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: For the Latin Mass, the Feast of the Ascension occurs on Thursday, May 26th. For English, it occurs on Sunday, May 29th. Since the English Mass has been transferred to the following Sunday, the Ascension is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nevertheless, we will have a Latin Low Mass on Thursday, May 26th at 6:30 p.m.

BEWARE OF TREE: An old and very large tree behind and to the east of the church has split and is poised to split again. This tree is scheduled to be cut down in early June. In the mean time, please keep away from this tree for the sake of safety. Trees will likely be planted in its stead.

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 \$10,377 and \$1,725 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, 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)

Mon, May 23: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Brigid Bascon (by the Lang Family)

Tues, May 24: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Elizabeth Hatten (by the Lang Family)

Wed, May 25: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Samuel Chrisman (by the Lang Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Nicolas Hardin (by the Lang Family)

Thur, May 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Nathan Bishop (by the Lang Family)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Leonard Walsh (by the Lang Family)

Fri, May 27: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Aloysius Lang (by the Lang Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Aurora Hardin (by the Lang Family)

Sat, May 28: 4:00 p.m. † Jerry Bryant (by Julia Bryant)

Sun, May 29: 7:30 a.m. † Jerry Bryant (by Lynn Bryant)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Marc Ross Payte (by the Lang Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Sam Montalbano, 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. Ascension	Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Lk 24:46-53
7:30 a.m. Sunday after Ascension	1Pet 4:7-11, Jn 15:26-16:4
9:00 a.m. Ascension	Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Lk 24:46-53
10:45 a.m. Sunday after Ascension	1Pet 4:7-11, Jn 15:26-16:4

Objectively

The idea of doing something every time as if it was for the first time, the last time, and the only time certainly applies to how we ought to receive Communion. The original context, as far as I am able to determine, comes from Mother Teresa. In the sacristy of every one of the chapels of her religious order, a sign admonishes the priest: ‘Priest of God, celebrate this Mass as if it is your first Mass, your last Mass, and your only Mass.’ Great significance is placed on a priest’s first Mass, so much so that many consider the first 30 or so of his Masses as a first Mass. But that first Mass is objectively no different than the 15th or the 1,500th or 15,000th Mass. If every Mass is objectively the same, then they also should be the same subjectively. Likewise, the first Mass is special not so much because it is the priest’s first, but because it is the Mass, the means by which Jesus comes to us under the veil of mere bread and wine.

Like anything that is done frequently or repetitively, the Mass can become routine to the point that the priest, while still offering a valid Mass and making Jesus present, can certainly do so as a matter of routine or even on autopilot. Doing so detracts subjectively from the Mass both for the priest himself and for the congregation. If the Mass is important – it truly is! – then the priest and the people need to act as if the Mass is important. The frequency that the Mass is offered points to its significance, but the human element, both with respect to the priest and the people, often makes the things done frequently in life routine and mundane. How significant is brushing your teeth? It is important, but something we do with minimal thought or consideration. Indeed, the Mass ought not be just another thing we do nor should it be subject to halfheartedness on the part of the priest or the people.

So, attending Mass and receiving Communion ought to be done with reverence, attention, and devotion. This applies to every Mass irrespective of the priest offering Mass or the nature of the church where the Mass is offered. Yes, on a subjective level, Fr Insecure, Fr TooGroovy, or Fr Indifferent can make the Mass less than edifying by his attitude, his mannerisms, and his preaching, but the Mass is still the Mass. Fathers Insecure, TooGroovy, and Indifferent ought to take the Mass more seriously, and if not, their bishops ought to admonish them. If there is a crisis of faith in the Real Presence – there truly is – then poorly celebrated liturgies are certainly contributing to this crisis. Likewise, churches that resemble Pizza Huts, office buildings, and modern art masterpieces also betray the significance of the Mass. Church structures ought to be suitable for the nature of what occurs inside, it ought to indicate what the purpose of the building is. Many restaurants are recognizable by the architecture of their buildings and the design of an office complex or a residence indicate the building’s purpose. But if someone visiting from another country and speaking no English saw some of our churches, would they recognize them as churches? Not so much. Objectively, however, Mass offered in the ugliest and least edifying church is still the Mass and needs to be approached as if it was offered at the Sistine Chapel in Rome or Holy Cross Cathedral in Barcelona.

Granted, we ought to prefer to attend Mass in a stately and beautiful church like Blessed Sacrament, St Paul’s, or St Elias, but most people have to make do. Likewise, we ought to have Mass offered by Fr KindaPious, Fr TryingToBePious, Fr Pious, or Fr MostPious, but again all too many Catholics today have to make do with the clergy they have. Nevertheless, mediocre priests and ugly churches, whether we encounter them on vacation, for a wedding or a funeral, or if such represents our only option on a weekly basis, should not stand in our way of attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion with utmost devotion. If the subjective elements of the church building or of the priest himself make worship challenging or difficult, we still have a duty to participate at Mass to the best of our ability. In other words, we need to attend Mass and worship, irrespective of the priest, the church architecture, or any other factor, as if this particular Mass is your first Mass, your last Mass, and your only Mass. After all, the Mass is an act of worship and must therefore be focused on Whom we worship more than on the priest or the church architecture. For this same reason, the priest ought to be pious and the church ought to be worthy of the God we worship.

- Fr Booth