

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 2nd/July 3rd 2022: Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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: 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 James Mickel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 3rd to July 9th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Marian and Saverio Miranda from July 10th until July 16th.

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

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 All Saints Day (Tuesday, November 1st), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

2022 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE, UPDATE: July 17th will be a Low Mass at 10:45 a.m.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5008, \$175 was donated to the Preservation Fund, and \$838 was given for the Mission Cooperative Appeal. 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, July 2: 8:30 a.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
4:00 p.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
- Sun, July 3: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Wayne & Carol Lindsay (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
- Mon, July 4: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Bettye Carrico (by the Hahn Family)
- Tues, July 5: *8:30 a.m. † Tom Wenzel (by the Hahn Family)
- Wed, July 6: *7:00 a.m. † J.C. Cooper, Jr. (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jonah Renda (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
- Thur, July 7: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
- Fri, July 8: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Max & Lena Cook (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
- Sat, July 9: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Bill Donellan (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
- Sun, July 10: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Valori Clemens (by the Clemens Boys)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Paul Clemens (by the Clemens Boys)

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 McMahan, 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. Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time | Deut 30:10-14, Col 1:15-20, Lk 10:25-37 |
| 7:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Pentecost | 1Pet 3:8-15, Mt 5:20-24 |
| 9:00 a.m. Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time | Deut 30:10-14, Col 1:15-20, Lk 10:25-37 |
| 10:45 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Pentecost | 1Pet 3:8-15, Mt 5:20-24 |

A Great Victory

In the recent Supreme Court decision, *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health*, the court finally admitted what has been known for almost 50 years. The U.S. Constitution does not guarantee abortion as a civil right. In 1973, in an early example of judicial activism, the Supreme Court ruled that all laws prohibiting abortion were unconstitutional, thereby legalizing abortion nationwide. They went so far as to say that abortion was a fundamental right. Abortion is a fundamental right somehow unknown to the founding fathers of this country, a right that would have been utterly repulsive to their sensibilities, so one must wonder how fundamental this supposed right might be. Likewise, finding the right to have an abortion in the Constitution is profoundly tenuous at best. In 1973 the court relied on the language of the 14th Amendment, specifically 'nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.' Perversely, the 14th Amendment protected the civil rights of freed slaves but was then used to deprive unborn persons of life, liberty, and property. It is little wonder that even some abortion proponents recognized that *Roe v Wade* was a poorly reasoned decision.

What the court did in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health* was recognize that the Constitution does not guarantee a right to an abortion or even hint of such a right. In other words, the right to terminate a pregnancy never existed despite *Roe v Wade*. Much the same can be said of the *Dred Scott* decision: the Constitution does not deny personhood or civil rights to people of African descent and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments simply recognized that all men are indeed created equal irrespective of their skin color. The overturning of *Dred Scott* by these three amendments did not suddenly grant personhood to freed slaves but recognized that they had been persons with civil rights all along.

In any case, the *Dobbs* decision is a great victory for life, but it is not the final or ultimate victory. It is a first step. Despite the highly exaggerated rhetoric of some, the supposed right to an abortion has not been eliminated. The court ruled that the 10th Amendment applies: 'The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.' Thus, abortion is now a states' rights issue, which is what the court should have ruled in 1973. Alabama can restrict abortion according to its own laws as much as California or New York might place few or no restrictions on abortion at all. Since the court has ruled that abortion is a states' right issue, however, Congress cannot simply pass a nationwide law legalizing abortion in all 50 states. In order to return to the evil allowed by *Roe v Wade*, a constitutional amendment would have to be passed to enshrine the right to kill babies in the womb. By the same token, to totally undo the scourge of abortion in this country, each state would have to outlaw abortion or a constitutional amendment protecting the life of the unborn would have to be passed, both of which are quite unlikely at this time.

Ultimately, what needs to happen is that hearts need to change. Many hearts have been hardened to the point that persuasive arguments are futile. Sadly, people with hardened hearts care nothing of the sensibilities of the fellow citizens and will likely force their beliefs on others as they are currently doing in other areas, such as gender issues. It will be their way of the highway.

Christ, however, did not operate that way. He proposed the truth – sometimes punctuated by signs and wonders, other times not – but He did not impose His will. Being divine, Jesus could have imposed His will quite easily, but He would rather that people accept the truth of their own volition. Our job is to do the same, presenting the truth, which is what the pro-life movement has been doing and needs to continue doing. The same goes for evangelization in general: hearts need to be changed.

As hardened as hearts are now against the sanctity of human life in the womb, it will likely require divine assistance to achieve progress toward a true pro-life victory. In fact, the *Dobbs* decision almost certainly resulted from divine assistance. But God did not act alone in this regard. Forty-nine years of witnessing, prayer, and sacrifice on our part were necessary. We must trust that God will do the heavy lifting – the changing of hearts – but we must continue to do our part as well. - Fr Booth