

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*July 30th/July 31st 2022: Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Eighth 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.”

NOTE ON PARISH EMAIL: If an email is sent to the church through the parish website, it is more than likely to be considered as spam by the parish email. It is recommended that emails should be sent from your own email account. You may have to resend recent emails.

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 Howard Von Hagel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 31st to August 6th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen Schauer from August 7th until August 13th.

REST IN PEACE: Fr Henry McDaid, a retired priest of the diocese, passed away on July 27th. His funeral will be at Prince of Peace on Monday, August 1st at 5:00 p.m. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

SUNDAY AUGUST 7th: Per the direction of Bishop Raica, Sunday August 7th will be celebrated for St John Vianney instead of the normal Sunday Masses. St John Vianney is one of the patron saints of the Diocese of Birmingham, along with St Paul, and he is also the patron of diocesan priests. The purpose of moving the celebration of St John Vianney to Sunday is to promote vocations to the priesthood and as a reminder that without priests, there is no Eucharist.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, 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 Sunday with the addition of All Saints Day (Tuesday, November 1st), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6558 and \$275 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, July 30: 4:00 p.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, July 31: 7:30 a.m. † Robert C. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Michael Dillingham (by the Duvall Family)
Mon, Aug 1: *8:30 a.m. † Fr Henry McDaid
Tues, Aug 2: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for David Muck, Jr. (by Monica Duvall)
Wed, Aug 3: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Beth Lauriello (by Monica Duvall)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Alice Muck (by the Duvall Family)
Thur, Aug 4: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mallorie Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Aug 5: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for James Erickson (by Monica Duvall)
*8:30 a.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sat, Aug 6: 4:00 p.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Aug 7: 7:30 a.m. † Dr. Michael Rowland (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Michael Nolan Griffin, Sam Montalbano, 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. St John Vianney	Ez 3:17-21, Eph 4:1-7,11-13, Mt 9:35-10:1
7:30 a.m. St John Vianney	Sir 31:8-11, Lk 12:35-40
9:00 a.m. St John Vianney	Ez 3:17-21, Eph 4:1-7,11-13, Mt 9:35-10:1
10:45 a.m. St John Vianney	Sir 31:8-11, Lk 12:35-40

On Our Own?

Why was Jesus silent on so many issues that are important today? How much easier it would have been if He had been explicit on many, many moral issues. Had Jesus made it clear that we could not own another human being, would we ever have had a slave trade and the utterly regrettable institution of slavery? Actually, it is hard to say. That would require listening to Him in the first place and then recognizing others as our brothers and sisters, recognizing the humanity of our brethren irrespective of how they might differ, ultimately recognizing and respecting the fact that every human being, without exception, is made in the image and likeness of God. We are not now nor have we ever been that good at recognizing these truths. We even have a slave trade today, but we have given it the more modern name of human trafficking. Sadly, for some reason we have little political or cultural appetite to end modern slavery. Out of sight, out of mind perhaps.

Either way, the first step, listening to what God teaches us in the Scriptures, ought to be straightforward for any moral issue. We have the Sixth Commandment and Jesus raising the moral bar by equating the interior act of lustful thoughts to the exterior act of adultery. Yet we have people today, even priests, who say that pornography is not sinful or perhaps explaining it away as a very minor sin. Adultery is minor sin? In equating lust with adultery Jesus either declared lust to be more serious than we might otherwise suspect or He is telling us that adultery is a trivial sin. The law written on our hearts ought to tell us that adultery is a very serious sin, which means that lustful thoughts are just as sinful. Another example of not listening to what God teaches us in the Bible is that there are serious, thoughtful, and devout Christians who sincerely believe that Jesus died for some, only for those who will make it to heaven, and not for those who go to hell. Somehow St Peter's teaching, "*The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*" (2Pet 3:9), St Paul's teaching, "*This is good and pleasing to God our Savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth*" (1Tim 2:3-4), and Jesus' own words, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him*" (Jn 3:16-17), all have to be explained away if Jesus came to die for some but not others.

What about Jesus teaching on nuclear weapons? Of course He said nothing about nuclear arms, but can we imagine Him saying, "Amen, amen, I say to you: you shall never build a bomb using uranium-235, plutonium-239, or lithium deuteride"? Or, could we imagine Jesus teaching "Amen, amen, I say to you: you shall never manipulate the genes of a virus"? Or, "Amen, amen I say to you: you shall not conceive human embryos in a laboratory and freeze them for later use"? Can we really expect Jesus to teach clearly on moral issues that would not surface for nineteen or twenty centuries into the future, moral issues incomprehensible at the time?

While Jesus could see into the future because of His divinity, does the fact that He did not tell us about the morality of any number of future ethical and moral issues means that He left it up to us? A few people would say that if the Bible does not explicitly permit us to do something, then it is immoral. Driving a car or playing baseball are immoral? Others would say that if the Bible does not explicitly forbid us from doing something, then it is moral. So, cloning humans, inventing new genders, terrorism, compelling speech, censoring speech, animal abuse, segregation, drug abuse, and so on are morally licit because the Scriptures are silent on the topics? So, are we on our own? Hardly. Jesus gave us the Church to speak on His behalf. He told the Apostles, the future leaders of His Church, "*He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me*" (Lk 10:16). This responsibility is entrusted to the Church not for the sake of wielding power over others but in the service of mankind. Indeed, mankind has always needed a moral compass, and Jesus has provided for this need.

- Fr Booth