

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Aug 6th / Aug 7th 2022: St John Vianney



**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.”

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 Eileen Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 7th to August 13th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Beverly Grisham from August 14th until August 20th.

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.

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

FR BOOTH ON VACATION: Father Booth will be on vacation from Monday, August 8th until Friday, August 12th. There will be no daily Masses during the week.

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 \$7381 and \$625 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, Aug 6: 8:30 a.m. † Fr Henry McDauid
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)
Mon, Aug 8: Private Mass
Tues, Aug 9: Private Mass
Wed, Aug 10: Private Mass
Thur, Aug 11: Private Mass
Fri, Aug 12: Private Mass
Sat, Aug 13: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Eli Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Aug 14: 7:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for John Morgan (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 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

4:00 p.m. 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jer 38:4-6, 8-10, Heb 12:1-4, Lk 12:49-53
7:30 a.m. 10 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 12:2-11, Lk 18:9-14
9:00 a.m. 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jer 38:4-6, 8-10, Heb 12:1-4, Lk 12:49-53
10:45 a.m. 10 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 12:2-11, Lk 18:9-14

God Steps In

Mankind has always needed a moral compass largely because of our fallen nature. Before the fall of man, God had given one explicit command to Adam, and through Adam to Eve: *“The Lord God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die”* (Gen 2:16-17). But what if God had given a second command to Adam and Eve? What if He had said ‘You shall wear durable clothing to protect yourselves from the elements and to protect your dignity: these clothes shall cover most of your bodies as fur, feathers, or scales cover the bodies of the beasts of field, the birds of the air, and the fish that swarm in the sea’? Such a reasonable command would have helped Adam and Eve, if they would have followed it, especially after their fall. Having fallen, their nakedness causes each of them shame, and they fashion for themselves loincloths made of fig leaves. Clearly these loincloths are impractical and insufficient. Eve’s fashion sense is deficient and Adam probably does not mind terribly. The loincloths might even have been his idea. Because they both lacked a sure and certain moral compass, God has to step in: *“The Lord God made for the man and his wife garments of skin, with which he clothed them”* (Gen 3:21).

In the case of the forbidden fruit and the fig leaf loincloths, Adam lacked courage. He did not protect his wife from the serpent’s deception or from Adam’s own objectification of Eve. In both cases Eve lacked discernment and judgment. Generations later, God has to step in again and specify a number of moral, didactic, and practical commandments, 613 of them, through the Law of Moses. Some might ask how anyone could be expected to adhere to over 600 laws. But then again, how many civil laws – local, state, and federal – are we subject to? It is hard to say, but it certainly many, many more than 613. That we recognize that numerous laws are necessary to constrain immoral behavior and to regulate a society testifies to our defective moral compasses and the fact that we have a multitude of law enforcement agencies confirms that testimony.

Why is all of this necessary? This is so because, like Adam, we lack the courage to do the right thing and because we lack the courage to correct and challenge immoral behavior. This is also so because we lack discernment and judgment much as Eve failed to exercise these virtues. Is it therefore necessary for laws to multiply? Likewise, do those writing our civil laws have the proper courage, discernment, and judgment to enact law after law on our behalf, or are they no better than Adam, Eve, you, or me? Sadly, our legislators are as fallen as we are, in many cases, much more so.

In any case, God stepped in again with Jesus. This time He did not multiply laws, but He clarified, amplified, and streamlined the Law of Moses. In fact, Jesus did not multiply commandments but went back to basics, distilling morality down to two fundamental commandments: *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments”* (Mt 22:37-40). So, Adam’s lack of courage in the two preceding examples can be seen as a lack of love for God by not challenging the serpent’s lie and a lack of love for Eve by putting her life in jeopardy by allowing her to eat the forbidden fruit. He likewise showed a lack of love for God and Eve by objectifying her. Eve failed to love Adam when she doubted that the commandment about the fruit came from God and a lack of love for God by wanting to be God’s equal.

Love, properly understood, is thus the only commandment we need. The problem is that we struggle to love properly, wanting to place many limits on how and who we love. Jesus steps in to give us an example of how to love God and love our neighbors. He died for everyone so none of us can say that any of our neighbors is unworthy of our love. To show us how to love Jesus died carrying out the will of the Father so none of can say that the cost of following God’s will is too steep a price to pay.