

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Sept 3rd/Sept 4th 2022: 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
13th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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 Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 4th to September 10th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robin Melendez from September 11th until September 17th.

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

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Eric Johnston, a local pro-life attorney. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received or soon receive a letter and a pledge card from the diocese. Our pledge goal this year is \$20,000. Almost all money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese.

A NEW SISTER!: Please welcome Sr Brisa to the parish. She joins Sr Luz, Sr Liz, Sr Melonie, and Sr Isabel. Sr Brisa, along with the friars and other sisters that have so generously served the poor, will no doubt be a blessing to the parish.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, John Paul Stepnowski, Andrew Vickery, Hunter Limbaugh, Adam Sellers, Francisco Rodgriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, 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 \$5740 and \$500 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)

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| Sat, Sept 3: | 8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for Judy Donellan (by the Donellan Family) |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Special Intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family) |
| Sun, Sept 4: | 7:30 a.m. | Pro Populo |
| | 9:00 a.m. | † Lorine Alesci (by Helen Brandley) |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Special Intention for Adrienne Price (by the Donellan Family) |
| Mon, Sept 5: | 8:30 a.m. | † Fr Henry McDaid |
| Tues, Sept 6: | 8:30 a.m. | † Alberta Hunter (by Helen Brandley) |
| Wed, Sept 7: | 7:00 a.m. | Special Intention for Carrie Duryea (by Monica Duvall) |
| | 8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for Sophie Henderson (by Monica Duvall) |
| Thur, Sept 8: | 8:30 a.m. | † Patricia Miles (Charlotte & Terry Rumore) |
| Fri, Sept 9: | 7:00 a.m. | † Carol Lindsay (by The Hahn Family) |
| | 8:30 a.m. | Special Intention for Jeff & Catherine Hahn (by The Hahn Family) |
| Sat, Sept 10: | 4:00 p.m. | † Thomasine Speights (by Helen Brandley) |
| Sun, Sept 11: | 7:30 a.m. | Pro Populo |
| | 9:00 a.m. | † Dee Joseph (by Helen Brandley) |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Special Intention for Sister Clara (by the Hahn Family) |

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Michael Nolan Griffin, Sam Montalbano, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, 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. | 24 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | Exo 32:7-11,13-14, 1Tim 1:12-17, Lk 15:1-32 |
| 7:30 a.m. | 14 th Sunday After Pentecost | Gal 5:16-24, Mt 6:24-33 |
| 9:00 a.m. | 24 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | Exo 32:7-11,13-14, 1Tim 1:12-17, Lk 15:1-32 |
| 10:45 a.m. | 14 th Sunday After Pentecost | Gal 5:16-24, Mt 6:24-33 |

Finely Tuned

So, there might be a trillion trillion planets in the universe. Why so many? Why would God have created a universe where even the number of galaxies is hard for us to fathom? If mankind persists for a few thousand more years and our technology continues to advance, we would be lucky to visit just a few stars and their planets that are not far from earth. Indeed, if in the coming centuries we developed the ability to travel near the speed of light, we could visit some of the 130 stars nearest the earth in the course of a 50 year voyage, a near life-time of travel. The next generation of space travelers would spend a near life-time of travel to return to earth. Given everything involved in visiting a handful of stars, it is clear that mankind will never be able to explore even a minuscule part of the Milky Way. We were created with the mission to “*fill the earth and subdue it*” (Gen 1:28), but it seems quite unlikely that we were meant to fill our galaxy and subdue it, and for mankind to fill and subdue the universe would be an absurdity.

It could be argued that the vastness of the universe has nothing to do with us. We can't even catalogue all of the stars let alone explore them. Some might conclude from this that there is no God, that our lives are mere unlikely accidents. Others insist that the vastness of the cosmos strongly suggests that the universe teems with life, that there are perhaps billions of intelligent forms of life besides us. Fifty years ago many scientists would have speculated that life is rare even to the point that life exists only on earth. Now, it is very common for scientists to think that it is quite unlikely that we are alone. The science and our knowledge have not changed, but the outlook of scientists has.

Why the change of view? That creation seems particularly suited to life has not escaped the notice of science. In fact, many scientists have realized that the universe and the laws governing it seem to be finely tuned for human life. In 1988, one of the greatest scientists of recent, Stephen Hawking, wrote that ‘The laws of science, as we know them at present, contain many fundamental numbers, like the size of the electric charge of the electron and the ratio of the masses of the proton and the electron... The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life.’ He also speculated that if the infant universe expanded just slightly faster (by about 0.000001%), then most matter would not have formed to the point that very few stars would come into being at all, and if the infant universe expanded just a tiny bit slower, then the universe would have ceased to expand and would have collapsed upon itself. There are about half a dozen other examples of the universe being fine-tuned for the existence of life.

To explain, or more likely to explain away, the clear evidence of the universe being fine-tuned for life, many scientists hypothesize a multiverse, not a universe. A multiverse would have millions, billions, or trillions of universes within it, universes totally isolated and undiscoverable from one another. These different universes within the multiverse would all have different laws of physics and be ‘tuned’ differently. The proponents of the multiverse theory argue that we just happen to live in the one universe that just happens by chance to be fine-tuned for life as we know it. But since each universe within the multiverse is totally isolated from the others, it is impossible to prove the existence of any of these other millions, billions, or trillions of universes. Thus, the existence or nonexistence of a multiverse is totally unprovable. Just like the existence or nonexistence of God is unprovable.

So, back to the question of why so many galaxies, stars, and planets. Perhaps the number of galaxies and all they contain are also part of the fine-tuning of the universe. In other words, maybe the universe needs to be as incomprehensibly vast as it is for nature to behave the way it does, for nature to support life, and for nature to support human life. It seems more logical that the simpler explanation for the way the universe is and behaves has more to do with a God who created and designed it that way, that He created, designed, and fine-tuned it for mankind. Indeed, the fine-tuned universe is evidence, but not proof, of God having created it. Creation suggests a Creator, design suggests a Designer, and fine-tuning suggests a Fine-Tuner.

- Fr Booth