

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Sept 10<sup>th</sup>/Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 2022: 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
14<sup>th</sup> 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 Robin Melendez, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 11<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from September 18<sup>th</sup> until September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**MORNING WITH MARY:** All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

**THIRD SUNDAY:** Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

**HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET:** The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 Rodriguez, 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 1<sup>st</sup>), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>).

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$8564 and \$1075 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is about a six-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

**MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS:** (\*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

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)  
Mon, Sept 12: 8:30 a.m. † Flossie McLain (by Helen Brandley)  
Tues, Sept 13: 8:30 a.m. † Mr. Stanislaw (by Davide & Andrea Botta)  
Wed, Sept 14: 7:00 a.m. † Mario Botta (by Davide & Andrea Botta)  
8:30 a.m. † Mary Lund (by Davide & Andrea Botta)  
Thur, Sept 15: 8:30 a.m. † George Gurkens Meyer (by Helen Brandley)  
Fri, Sept 16: 7:00 a.m. † Carol Lindsay (by The Hahn Family)  
8:30 a.m. † Les Pierce (by Doug Duvall)  
Sat, Sept 17: 9:15 a.m. † Tim Nott (by Doug Duvall)  
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Sheila Muck (by Alice Muck)  
Sun, Sept 18: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Diane McReynolds (by the Duvall Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Dale Bell (by the Duvall 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**

4:00 p.m. 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Amos 8:4-7, 1Tim 2:1-8, Lk 16:1-13
7:30 a.m. 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16
9:00 a.m. 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Amos 8:4-7, 1Tim 2:1-8, Lk 16:1-13
10:45 a.m. 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16

## *Are We Alone?*

It is hard to pin down when the first works of science fiction were penned. What defines the concept of science fiction is part of the problem. Some of the imagery in the Books of Ezekiel and Revelation might qualify in some sense of the term, but we can hardly say that the Bible contains science fiction. Likewise, Hindu writings, perhaps as old as the Old Testament, use imagery that might seem to be early forms of science fiction, but a Hindu would likely disagree. Closer to a more recognizable form of science fiction would be books like *Frankenstein* from 1818, some of the works of Edgar Allan Poe from the 1830s, and Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* from 1870. H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* (1898) and later Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon (beginning in the 1930s) made alien life a staple of the genre to the point that almost everything since has featured life from outer space, sometimes from as near as the moon or Mars, other times from places quite far away. In the 1950s and early 1960s the alien life was portrayed as intelligent and hostile, posing a menace to the planet, often standing in as a metaphor for the menace of the Soviet Union.

Many of these scifi aliens are basically human in form perhaps with different skin, different facial features, and almost all somehow knew how to speak English. It is understandable that Hollywood has been constrained to make aliens much more human because actors are human, and to make them speak English since it would be tedious to have human-alien dialogues with subtitles. A degree of suspension of belief is necessary to make an entertaining story that people would want to read or watch. Then again, most early science fiction featured aliens that were much too human largely because it was believed that life would be essentially the same all through the universe. More significant departures from the idea that all intelligent life is like us began with using more familiar animals instead of humans, like the ewoks and wookiees of Star Wars or the hawkmen of Flash Gordon, but still earth-like creatures. In any case, Hollywood takes for granted that the universe brims with life, almost always intelligent life, as is clearly reflected in the Star Trek and Star Wars franchises.

Science has been more circumspect regarding the possible existence of life elsewhere than the earth. In the 1950s, the idea of little green men was a matter of ridicule among scientists, an idea that was scarcely taken seriously. After all, Venus, Mars, the moon, Saturn, and so on were known to be lifeless. Life as we know it could not exist anywhere else in the solar system. Life quite different from what we know began to be taken seriously especially when we contemplated going to the moon. The returning astronauts were quarantined for 21 days and given a thorough medical exam to make sure they brought back no alien contagions from the moon. Scientists in the 1970s and 1980s were a bit more open to life elsewhere, but considered the possibility to be somewhat remote, especially regarding intelligent life. Since the 1980s, however, it is much more common for science to embrace the possibility of alien life in general and intelligent life in particular. There has been essentially no new scientific evidence pointing to extraterrestrial life, so this reflects a shift in attitude or belief among scientists. Indeed, it has gone from impossible or quite unlikely to likely or even a certainty in the span of seven or so decades. No doubt, the realization that there are so many galaxies and therefore so many planets makes the speculation of life elsewhere seem much more probable. After all, if there are a trillion trillion planets out there, it might seem that extraterrestrial life almost certainly exists. That earth would be unique among so vast a number of planets is as laughable today as little green men were in the 1950s.

But what if there is life, even intelligent life, on other worlds? What would that mean to the faith? Probably nothing one way or the other. Indeed, the Church has no teaching on the existence of alien life whatsoever. As far as the Church is concerned, there might be or there might not be life elsewhere. We are free to speculate on alien life. Why? Because the existence of aliens does not change the fact that we were made in the image and likeness of God, that God the Son became one of us, that His death and resurrection save us from our sins, and that we will be saved if we live lives animated by faith, hope, and love.

- Fr Booth