

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>/Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 2022: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

16<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 Shack Pruitt, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Kimson Woods from October 2<sup>nd</sup> until October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow the Mass.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** Next 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 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.

**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.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$6695 and \$175 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

**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>).

**LOW MASS ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup>:** The 10:45 Mass on October 16<sup>th</sup> will be a Low Mass due to a projected shortage of altar servers.

**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 24:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for the Patrick Rumore Family (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Sept 25:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Philomena Guadet (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Birmingham Fraternal Chapter (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Sept 26:	8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Tues, Sept 27:	8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Wed, Sept 28:	7:00 a.m.	Private Intention
	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Green Family (by Sophie Henderson)
Thur, Sept 29:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Fehr Family (by Diane Penney)
Fri, Sept 30:	7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn
	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn
Sat, Oct 1:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn
	4:00 p.m.	† Jerry Bryant (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Oct 2:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn

**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.	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Hab 1:2-3;2:2-4, 2Tim 1:6-8,13-14, Lk 17:5-10
7:30 a.m.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46
9:00 a.m.	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Hab 1:2-3;2:2-4, 2Tim 1:6-8,13-14, Lk 17:5-10
10:45 a.m.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46

## *Ignorant, Stupid, and Wicked*

We are stewards of the planet for God's sake, our own sake, for the sake of future generations, and for the sake of the universe. God has made the earth for us and entrusted us with it. So we are to occupy, subdue, and tend the planet for God's sake – it is His after all – and for our own sake. For our own sake in the sense of here and now, but also with respect to the past and to the future. Concern for the future is a no-brainer. It might not be obvious that we ought to respect the past, but we did not get where we are today all by ourselves. Our success and progress depend on our forebears who were hardly perfect. Man was ignorant, capable of great stupidity, and prone to evil. Thousands of years of man enslaving man is testimony to our stupidity and wickedness. That we thought the earth was the center of the universe is evidence of our ignorance, but then again we have forgotten much that our ancestors knew, such as how to be self-sufficient. Take away running water, electricity, and modern transportation, we would be in a world of hurt. Our stupidity has hardly been cured, for example, since growing number of people believe that we can create and declare our own genders, something more obviously wrong than thinking the earth was the center of the universe. Our wickedness is manifest in the fact that slavery is alive and well today with so sign of disappearing. Morally speaking, to condemn those who lived long ago for not thinking like we do is foolishness. Those long dead and those yet to be born have ample evidence to convict us of ignorance, stupidity, and wickedness.

In any case, one of the reasons for preserving the planet, one of the motivations for the early environmental movement, was that intelligent life gives meaning to the universe. This is evident even to atheists. When or if mankind ceases to be, it is quite possible that the only intelligent life in the galaxy or even the universe will also cease to be. Intelligent life is the crown jewel of the universe even apart from faith. From a faith perspective, this is reflected in what God said when He finished creating all that is. God declared everything good upon its creation, but He said it was very good (Gen 1:31) when He created man. So, surely it should be obvious to believer and unbeliever alike that preserving the environment is critical to preserving mankind and that preserving mankind is a moral imperative.

In the last twenty-five years or so, however, there has been a shift in the impetus of environmentalism. It has gone from saving the planet in order to preserve the human race's future to saving the planet in order to preserve the planet. Another way to put it is that saving the planet was once for the sake of man but it is increasingly about saving the planet in spite of man. For example, several governments are actively seeking to reduce the amount of fertilizer used on crops. Thirty-percent reductions have been proposed in Canada and in Europe for the sake of reducing greenhouse gasses. First of all, agriculture actively pulls CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gasses. This is what plants do. This is why people have been promoting the planting of trees. Yet smaller crops resulting from less fertilizer mean less CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the air. It also means less food. Less food means fewer people. Similarly, we have been adding ethanol to our gasoline, mandated by the government in 2005 and 2007, to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions partially because agriculture removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the air and partially because gasohol (supposedly) produces less CO<sub>2</sub> when burned by our cars. Nearly 40% of our corn, almost 6 billion bushels, goes to making alcohol for our gas. That much corn could potentially feed 700 million people every year. Both mandated fertilizer reductions and gasohol production pit the environment directly against the feeding of people.

We are currently facing a food crisis that will only worsen. Famine is expected by the United Nations, who have warned about an unprecedented global food crisis in 2022 and expects things to worsen in 2023. Part of this is due to the war in Ukraine, due to droughts, and due to economic inflation caused by half-witted politicians. How will gasohol and fertilizer restrictions help?

If we choose to save the planet at the expense of people, perhaps in the hundreds of millions, suffering from famine and starvation, how could past or future generations not call us ignorant, stupid, and wicked?

- Fr Booth