

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**November 5th/November 6th 2022: 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
22nd Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**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.”

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 and Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from November 6th until November 12th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ronnie Mason from November 7th until November 19th.

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received 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. As of mid-October, we have pledged about \$14,600 (73%) of our parish goal.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4946 and \$695 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon 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 Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

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, Nov 5: 8:30 a.m. † Sheila Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
4:00 p.m. † Sheila Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Nov 6: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Dr. & Mrs. Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Martire Family (by the Hahn Family)

Mon, Nov 7: *8:30 a.m. Private Intention

Tues, Nov 8: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Nicholas Johnson (by the Hahn Family)

Wed, Nov 9: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Hahn Family)
*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Abigail Bodner (by the Zaucha Family)

Thur, Nov 10: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for All Blessed Sacrament Altar Servers (by the Sampedro Family)

Fri, Nov 11: *7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Adele Gilbert (by the Sampedro Family)
*8:30 a.m. † Amber Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sat, Nov 12: 4:00 p.m. † Amber Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Nov 13: 7:30 a.m. † James H. Rohling, Jr. (by Danny and Judy Rohling)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Gene Bazzel (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Theresa Gagnon, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, 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. 33 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mal 3:19-20, 2Thes 3:7-12, Lk 21:5-19
7:30 a.m. 23 rd Sunday After Pentecost	Phil 3:17-4:3, Mt 9:18-26
9:00 a.m. 33 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mal 3:19-20, 2Thes 3:7-12, Lk 21:5-19
10:45 a.m. 23 rd Sunday After Pentecost	Phil 3:17-4:3, Mt 9:18-26

Virtue is Hard

Virtue is difficult and this might explain why fewer and fewer people strive to be virtuous today. However, some people do worry about the perception of virtue, but not the actual practice of it. Often, those who are interested in projecting a façade of virtue will do certain manifest things that are relatively easy but result in little or no good. The name for this is virtue signaling. It might make the virtue signaler feel good about themselves or produce favorable opinions in others, but it often goes no further than that. For example, for the sake of the environment a celebrity or politician might own a hybrid car that saves about 250 gallons of gas per year over a conventional car, yet fly around the country in a private jet that might get 1.0 to 1.2 miles to the gallon. Flying from coast to coast once a month could easily consume 50,000 gallons of jet fuel per year. What is the hybrid's savings of 250 gallons versus the consumption of 50,000 gallons for private flights? Additionally, that 250 gallons saved might be more theoretical than actual given that the celebrity or politician probably drives other cars such as a whopping SUV or thirsty sports car. In this case, the hybrid car expresses a concern for the environment, but not an actual help to the environment. This is especially the case if the celebrity or politician drives his other fuel hungry cars. Then again, isn't it even more environmentally responsible to own fewer cars than to add a car that is largely symbolic even though that hybrid car might save some gas?

What would actual virtue look like in this instance? If the environment is truly the concern, the most ecologically responsible trip is the one not taken. Every untaken coast-to-coast and back private plane trip would save 4,200 gallons of fuel, which represents the potential total fuel savings from the hybrid over the course of almost 17 years. Better yet, flying commercial from coast-to-coast and back expends about 80 gallons of fuel for a man of average weight assuming that the seat would otherwise be empty for both flights. If the seat was occupied by someone else, no extra fuel is spent (i.e., an empty seat saves 40 gallons of fuel on one coast-to-coast flight). But would a celebrity or a politician skip a trip for ecological reasons? Not likely. Would they save about 4,120 gallons of fuel by flying commercial only once instead of using a private jet? Very unlikely. Would they save 49,000 gallons of fuel a year, equivalent to the potential fuel savings of driving the hybrid over the course of 200 years, by flying only commercial, forsaking the private jet altogether? Totally unlikely.

Skipping a trip and flying commercial represent sacrifices that would be deemed unacceptable for the typical celebrity or politician. They'd rationalize using the private jet for the sake of security, privacy, or simply avoiding the great unwashed multitude they entertain, serve, or pretend to serve. At the same time they would harshly judge the hoi polloi for not sacrificing for the sake of the environment because the multitudes are not driving hybrids or electric cars. It will almost certainly come to pass, sooner or later, that the celebrities will brow-beat the unwashed masses and the politicians will force the use of electric cars for the sake of the environment. But is it virtue when it is forced or coerced? No.

Indeed, from the preceding example, it seems clear that virtue requires sacrifice and it is this sacrifice that makes virtue difficult and often unattractive, while making virtue signaling so attractive. The celebrity that claims the environment to be a principal value but does not make the necessary sacrifices essentially says that the environment is not that important, or at least not as important as their comfort, privacy, or convenience. Forcing others to sacrifice is not virtue or even virtue by proxy. Forcing others to sacrifice is essentially involuntary forfeiture, as virtuous as paying taxes.

Because we choose the easy virtue-free path more and more, it should not be a surprise that we find loving others – truly loving others – so difficult. When like and love become synonymous, the easy virtue-free liking will be chosen over and mistaken for the virtuous loving because no sacrifice is necessary to like someone. In the same way, when disliking and hating are equated, voluntary vicious hatred flows as readily as our involuntary dislike of someone we find unpleasant. Therefore, because virtue is hard we find hating to be all too easy and truly loving that much more difficult. - Fr Booth