

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**November 19<sup>th</sup>/November 20<sup>th</sup> 2022: Christ the King (English)  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211  
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

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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 Ronnie Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from November 7<sup>th</sup> until November 19<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from November 20<sup>th</sup> until November 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

**ADVENT PROJECT:** During Advent, we will collect blankets and coats for the Catholic Center of Concern. Please place the coats and blankets in the back of the Church near the statue of St Terese.

**FUNDRAISER:** On Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a fundraising banquet at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the Poor of Jesus Christ, Franciscan friars and sisters serving the homeless, drug addicted, and trafficked on the streets of Birmingham. There will be a raffle for the following prizes: two pieces of original artwork, a tour and tasting for 6 at Dread River Distillery (value \$150), a professional photography session (value \$300), \$1,000 cash, and a 1-week stay on Lake Martin in a beautiful lake house (sleeps 20, value \$7,000). There is no cost to attend, but an appeal for donations will be given. Please register calling or texting the word “Banquet” to (205) 913-3776 by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** 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 \$3743 and \$170 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 8<sup>th</sup>).

**TENTATIVE FIRST COMMUNION DATE:** For 2023, April 23<sup>rd</sup> has been identified as the date for First Communion.

**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 19: 9:15 a.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)  
4:00 p.m. † Tom Davis (by Mary & Betty Mason)

Sun, Nov 20: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Juan & Denise Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Michael & Mary Margaret Hill (by the Donellan Family)

Mon, Nov 21: \*8:30 a.m. Private Intention

Tues, Nov 22: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Matt Roth & Family (by the Donellan Family)

Wed, Nov 23: \*7:00 a.m. Special Intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Ann Parsons (by Diane Penney)

Thur, Nov 24: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Dot Welch (by Diane Penney)

Fri, Nov 25: \*7:00 a.m. † Clyde McLendon (by Trish Beaumont)  
\*8:30 a.m. † Ken Howard (by Helen Brandley)

Sat, Nov 26: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Suzanne Vickery (by Trish Beaumont)

Sun, Nov 27: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Maddie Duvall (by the Duvall Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Shields (by Monica Duvall)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially 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, 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. First Sunday of Advent	Isa 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Mt 24:37-44
7:30 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Rom 13:11-14, Lk 21:25-33
9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Isa 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Mt 24:37-44
10:45 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Rom 13:11-14, Lk 21:25-33

## *Our True King*

We have not had an earthly king ruling over us since 1783 when we won independence from the British Empire. Our king prior to independence was George III, who may have been mentally ill. It is reported that he suffered mental breakdowns, hallucinations, and paranoia. One is left to wonder how things might have unfolded if King George was a better king, or at least not vexed by mental issues. Had he been more evenhanded or addressed the grievances of the American colonies, would we still be part of the British Commonwealth of nations much like Canada and Australia? Would we still have a king in Charles III, even if he is more of a figurehead than a true sovereign king? Hard to say.

We might ask how Jesus' life might have been different if the various King Herods had been of sound mind. Herod the Great, the king reigning at the time of Christ's birth, had no difficulty slaughtering all of the young boys in the vicinity of Bethlehem out of fear that a new King of the Jews had been born. Some historians have doubted this episode, but he did execute his wife Mariamne I and his sons Aristobulus IV, Alexander, and Antipater II. Emperor Augustus would quip that 'It is better to be Herod's pig than his son.' He also married one of his nieces and one of his cousins. Herod the Great's son, Herod Antipas, the Herod that reigned over Galilee during Jesus' ministry, married his half-brother Phillip's wife, Herodias, and lusted after Salome, who was Herodias' daughter. Salome was Herod Antipas's step-daughter, cousin, and niece. Herod Antipas would be dethroned by the certifiably insane Emperor Caligula through the treachery of Agrippa, who was simultaneously Herod's brother-in-law (Herodias' brother) and his nephew. Yikes.

There have been other mad monarchs over time. King Nebuchadnezzar II may have thought he was an ox or some sort of bovine. King Ludwig II of Bavaria was obsessed with building fairytale castles in an age where cannons made such fortifications obsolete. One must also wonder about the mental state of Vlad the Impaler and Ivan the Terrible, both of whom were nothing less than bloodthirsty tyrants. The list goes on and on.

Should this surprise us? Not at all. With thrones being inherited – given that competence, sanity, and benevolence are not traits that are reliably inherited especially when inbreeding occurs – there will be horrible kings and queens. We should also remember that God warns the people through the prophet Samuel when they clamored for a king: *“The governance of the king who will rule you will be as follows: He will take your sons and assign them to his chariots and horses, and they will run before his chariot. He will appoint from among them his commanders of thousands and of hundreds. He will make them do his plowing and harvesting and produce his weapons of war and chariotry. He will use your daughters as perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will tithe your crops and grape harvests to give to his officials and his servants. He will take your male and female slaves, as well as your best oxen and donkeys, and use them to do his work. He will also tithe your flocks. As for you, you will become his slaves”* (1Sam 8:11-17). The Lord was not warning us about insane or incompetent rulers, but human rulers in general.

Prior to Saul, God was the King of the Chosen People. They had judges, such as Joshua and Samuel, who were called by God to guide the people and settle disputes, but a king with concentrated power was never God's intent. The Lord knew the people would clamor for a king, rejecting Him in the process, just as He knew that Herod the Great and Herod Antipas would reign during Jesus' earthly life, just as He knew that Jesus would be the Son of King David. But in Jesus, we have the reiteration that it is God who is truly sovereign, who has power that no human ruler could imagine.

Nevertheless, we forget quite readily that Jesus is our one true King. We might poo-poo kings as a thing of the past, we might think we would never elect truly incompetent or mentally ill men into positions of power, but we would be wrong. We will be equally wrong to think that we can rely on mere human kings, emperors, presidents, and prime ministers. No, our allegiance belongs to the one King not subject to mental issues, incompetence, or corruption: Jesus Christ.

- Fr Booth