

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 8th / April 9th 2023: Easter



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
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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, Wednesday, and Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 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 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.”

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON CONFESSIONS: Beginning in Lent we will begin using a new formula for absolution that reads: “God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and **poured out** the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God **grant** you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Changes in Bold).

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 Tom Davis, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 9th to April 15th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Crawford Mabee from April 16th until April 22nd.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, April 15th. 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.

GOLF FORE LIFE: The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, May 19th at Highland Park Golf Course. Highland Golf Course is a great course and fun for golfers of all skill levels. Please come play golf and help raise money for Her Choice, a pro-life pregnancy resource center. Tee-off will be at 9:00 a.m. A box lunch will be provided. The cost is \$250 (\$125 of which is tax deductible) per individual golfer and prizes will be awarded immediately following the tournament. Register by calling Jim Pinto at (205) 447-8796, or calling Her Choice at (205) 252-0706, or through email at Golf4life@herchoicebirmingham.org. Registration deadline is Friday, May 12th.

FIRST COMMUNION DATE: ~~Sunday, April 23rd is the date for First Communion.~~ Sunday, March 19th is the scheduled date for First Communion.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$12,088 and \$180 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.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 6-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Apr 8: 8:00 p.m. Special Intention for Carolyn Romano (by the Hahns)
Sun, Apr 9: 9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Amanda Lang (by Monica Duvall)
Mon, Apr 10: *8:30 a.m. † Carol Holsomback (by Monica Duvall)
Tues, Apr 11: *8:30 a.m. † Luke Beasley (by Grace White)
Wed, Apr 12: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Anthony & Elizabeth Rumore (by the Zaucha Family)
Thur, Apr 13: *8:30 a.m. † Connie Bull (by the Juneau Family)
Fri, Apr 14: *8:30 a.m. † Frank Hall (by the Hall Family)
Sat, Apr 15: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for the Fay Family (by the Hall Family)
4:00 p.m. † Fr John Horgan (by Monica Duvall)
Sun, Apr 16: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Alex Sabri (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Joseph P. Donellan (by Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Deb Rankin, Jeff Brown, Debbie Trussell, Friar Pietro, Mary Simmons, Victoria Sanderson, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, 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, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 2:42-47, 1Pet 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31
7:30 a.m. Low Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31
9:00 a.m. Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 2:42-47, 1Pet 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31
10:45 a.m. Low Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31

Be Not Afraid

Every normal human being is beset with emotions that are largely beyond our control. One day we are happy and content with life, the next we might be absolutely overwhelmed with grief. One day the disciples are riding high in jubilation when Jesus enters into Jerusalem for the last time, and a few days later they begin to taste the grief that comes when Jesus announces that His betrayal is at hand. Soon, the grief deepens when Jesus is arrested in Gethsemane.

Nine of the Apostles run away and cowered in grief and fear. They were grieving the betrayal of Jesus while at the same time fearing that they too would be arrested. Judas, however, has discovered his own sense of grief. Fearing what he has done, fearing God's judgment, and fearing living the rest of his life like Cain, the murderer of Abel, Judas chooses to take his own life. The vice of greed brought Judas to betray Jesus, but it was fear that caused him to despair, to abandon hope to the point of suicide. The other two Apostles, Peter and John, follow Jesus after His arrest doing so at a distance out of fear. Out of fear, the fear of being associated with Jesus, Peter denies Jesus three times. Out of fear of being arrested, John blends in with the crowd, preferring to be anonymous over being a disciple.

Fear is no less powerful in us. Fear can lead us to betray God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Fear can lead us to deny the truth, even Truth Himself. The Apostles' fear on Holy Thursday and Good Friday is entirely natural. Out of fear, almost all of us would have cowered in hiding, denied Jesus, or sought anonymity in a crowd. Some might lose hope and fall into Judas-like despair. We even see fear at work on Easter morning. Who goes to Jesus' tomb? Only Mary Magdalene and several other women are brave enough. It is likely that they asked the Apostles, now gathered in the upper room now safe from Judas' betrayal, to roll away the stone for them. Clearly, these men are too afraid to help.

When the women encounter the angel, "*they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.*" They go from brave sorrow to fearful joy. Fear almost never leads to joy nor does joy bring about fear. Fearful joy, or even joyful fear, does not happen every day because the events that bring out a combination of fear and joy are not everyday occurrences. Indeed, what brings about fearful joy or joyful fear are life-changing events. Usually the event itself is a source for joy, but the meaning of the event is also a cause for fear.

'What is' brings joy. 'What if' breeds fear. For the women at the tomb, the Resurrection is the 'what is', the knowledge that brings joy. It is the uncertainty, the 'what if', that breeds fear. They have no idea yet what the Resurrection means. Will the Risen Jesus continue as before, teaching, performing miracles, and irritating the scribes and Pharisees? Will He hunted down again and killed, this time with all of His disciples being killed with Him? At that point, the women and other disciples had a better understanding of what life would be like with a dead and buried Jesus than what life meant with a Risen and Living Jesus. Absent the Resurrection the disciples would have more or less returned to ordinary life. Jesus would have touched their lives, but He would not have given life itself new meaning. The Resurrection makes a simple return to their old lives impossible. Jesus rising from the dead is an absolutely life-changing event. It is not just life-changing, it is a universe changing event.

How? First, sin no longer reigns in our lives, sin no longer enslaves the disciples of Jesus. Yes, we still sin, but Jesus rising from the dead makes it possible for us to break free from bondage to sin. Secondly, death no longer has the last word in our lives. Death is no longer the end, but is simply a transition in life. Death is no longer something to be feared and the tomb is no longer a sign of defeat but a sign of hope.

So if sin and death are vanquished by Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, what do we have to fear? Yes, fear seizes us, but if we maintain our joyful hope it need not overcome us like it overcame Judas, it need not shake us like the Roman soldiers who "*became like dead men.*" In the face of fear, we must be like the women at the tomb, we must be joyful despite our fears. Could what we fear be more powerful than Jesus Who destroyed the power of sin and death? So, faced with fear let us never abandon our hopeful joy. Indeed, without hopeful joy, fear can make us like dead men. Or worse. - Fr Booth