

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 15th / April 16th 2023: Divine Mercy Sunday



**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 Crawford Mabee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 16th to April 22nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Tom Davis from April 23rd until April 29nd.

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.

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 \$8538 and \$1000 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

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

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.

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

- 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 the Donellan Family)
- Mon, Apr 17: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Nedvidek Family (by the Donellan Family)
- Tues, Apr 18: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Sharon Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
- Wed, Apr 19: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Catherine Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
- Thur, Apr 20: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
- Fri, Apr 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Scott Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
- Sat, Apr 22: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Jeff Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for the Rodriquez Family (by the Donellan Family)
- Sun, Apr 23: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Wes Hill Family (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the David Hill Family (by the 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 McMahan, 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

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| 4:00 p.m. Third Sunday of Easter | Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35 |
| 7:30 a.m. Second Sunday After Easter | 1Pet 2:21-25, Jn 10:11-16 |
| 9:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Easter | Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1Pet 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35 |
| 10:45 a.m. Second Sunday After Easter | 1Pet 2:21-25, Jn 10:11-16 |

His Mercy Endures Forever

What great mercy God has shown His people. We continue to celebrate Lent, Holy Week, and the season of Easter to keep this wonderful, mysterious reality alive in our lives. As easy as it is to take the good things of this world for granted, it seems far easier to do this with the things of the world to come. Look at the good things we take for granted every day: abundant food, safe drinking water, and the other very basic things in life. It is also easy to take luxuries for granted as well. Whether it is the internet, computers, cell phones, or appliances, any of these things can be taken for granted. We don't appreciate them until we no longer have them or they no longer work. We have become so accustomed to such things in our lives that when they are not there, we see the minor inconvenience as a major injustice. Pretty ridiculous, but also pretty human.

Sadly, taking things for granted does not end with material things. We can very easily take people and relationships for granted. This happens with husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, and also between friends. The only way to combat this is to be devoted to our loved ones and to work at these important relationships. If we can take our loved ones for granted, those who are most important to us, imagine how easily we can take God for granted? Since we are able to take for granted those that we can see, how much easier is it for us to take for granted the God we cannot see?

Jesus uses Thomas' doubt, Thomas' insistence on seeing proof of the resurrection, to illustrate this point. Thomas is insistent and does not take the eyewitness accounts of the other apostles at face value. *"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe"* (Jn 20:25). The testimony of those closest to Thomas does not matter to him, men with whom he has shared the last three years of his life. Therefore Jesus mercifully comes to Thomas, dispelling all doubt by showing Thomas His hands and His side. But Jesus' response to Thomas is both a blessing and a warning: *"Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed"* (Jn 20:29)

It is a blessing that we who have not physically seen Jesus nor touched His wounds believe in Jesus. But since it is easy for us to take the visible for granted and even easier to take the invisible for granted, we must work at keeping this faith alive. The earliest members of the Church did just that, they worked at keeping Jesus in their lives and not taking Him for granted. We hear that *"Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes"* (Acts 2:46). They were going to Mass, they were breaking bread as a community every day. They did not just attend Mass, they devoted themselves to the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery every day. We might be envious of St Thomas since none of us has had the grace of touching Jesus' wounds. We might even think that our faith would be deeper and stronger if we had such an experience of the risen Christ. But Jesus in His mercy provides us a more profound and intimate encounter, an encounter we can partake in every day if we wish. This blessing is none other than the Eucharist.

The depth of Jesus' mercy does not end with the Eucharist. We also encounter Him in the confessional. Jesus in His infinite mercy has entrusted to mere fallible men the authority to forgive sins in His name. Jesus says to the Apostles *"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained"* (Jn 20:22-23) He is not talking about forgiving those who sin against us since we have an obligation to forgive one another unconditionally, we cannot withhold our forgiveness. Jesus is clearly giving the apostles their successors the gift to forgive other people's sins, or if they are not truly repentant, to retain those sins.

So our challenge is not to take our relationship with Jesus for granted. Indeed, we must be devoted to Him, we must be devoted to the Mass, and we must be devoted to confession. If we never take Jesus for granted and we are devoted to His gifts of the Eucharist and confession, we can be certain that *His mercy endures for ever* (Ps 118).
- Fr Booth