

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*May 6th/May 7th 2023: Fifth Sunday of Easter (English)
Fourth Sunday After Easter (Latin)*



**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.”

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 Tony Melendez, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 30th until May 6th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Glenn A. Varnell from May 7th until May 13th.

MAY CROWNING: We will crown a statue of Mary this Sunday, May 7th following the 9:00 a.m. and the 10:45 a.m. Masses.

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

DOMINICAN NUNS VOCATION RETREAT: The cloistered Dominican nuns in Marbury, Alabama invite young women age 16-26 to draw closer to Jesus and Mary and learn more about their hidden vocation at the heart of the Order of Preachers. The retreat will be from June 9th to June 11th. Visit: MarburyDominicanNuns.org/Vocation-Retreat-June23

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5444, \$150 was donated to the Preservation Fund, \$1145 was given to the Catholic Home Missions. 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, May 6: 8:30 a.m. † Amber Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
4:00 p.m. † Amber Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, May 7: 7:30 a.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Mon, May 8: *8:30 a.m. † Catherine Lester Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Tues, May 9: *8:30 a.m. † Jennifer Rodriguez (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, May 10: *8:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, May 11: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Dulce Maria Osorio (by Rafael & Yesenia Osorio)
Fri, May 12: *8:30 a.m. † Sheila Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sat, May 13: 4:00 p.m. † Sheila Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, May 14: 7:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by Judy & Danny Rohling)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jeff Brown, Debbie Trussell, 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, Linda Cooper, 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. Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:5-8,14-17, 1Pet 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21
7:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday After Easter	James 1:22-27, Jn 16:23-30
9:00 a.m. Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:5-8,14-17, 1Pet 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21
10:45 a.m. Fifth Sunday After Easter	James 1:22-27, Jn 16:23-30

Our Culture is Losing its Mind

How did we get to the point where people now claim that there are a multitude of genders when the obvious, scientific fact is that there are but two and only two true genders? How can we say that the doctor that delivers a baby is supposedly mis-gendering that baby based on the child's obvious anatomy? After all, the obstetrician is a trained professional, an expert in human anatomy, and for all intents and purposes an applied scientist. Yes, there are cases when the baby's anatomy might be ambiguous, but they are rare and can be resolved through DNA testing. Nevertheless, Facepage, among others, allows users to choose over 50 unique genders. Absurd.

But if there are 20 or 50 or 100 genders, all but two being unknown to science since the beginning of rational thought, then surely there are genes that differentiate someone who is supposedly agender from someone who is supposedly gendervoid from someone who is supposedly pangender from someone who is supposedly omnigender. The argument is often made that our DNA defines what we are and there are claims that people do not choose to be this-or-that. If so, then this-or-that ought to be expressed in the genetic makeup of each one of us. If these until recently unknown genders are not defined by DNA like male and female, then the so-called gender spectrum is an artifact of the mind and all of the factors that go into making each of our minds what they are.

That there are spectra of traits associated with masculinity and femininity might be confused with the idea of a spectrum of genders. Men and women share a multitude of common traits, but there are traits that tend to be more common among men and others more common among women. But a man being empathetic and kind does not mean that he is not a man any more than a woman who is competitive and aggressive is not a woman. Likewise, a man might be aggressive and competitive but mellows with age becoming more peaceful and less ambitious. Does that mean he becomes less of a man or more of a woman? Hardly. Does that mean he is assuming a new gender as he ages? Absurd.

The constant culture wars that have raged over the past 50 years almost certainly have contributed to this situation. When we are bombarded with the lies that we live in a vast patriarchy and that men live much easier and fulfilling lives than women, might this inspire someone to become part of the patriarchy and others to opt out? Might the war on motherhood be a factor? Or the objectification and exaltation and near deification of feminine beauty? Or taking marital relations out of marriage, cheapening this God-given gift and reducing it to a mere commodity, separating the act from procreation and marital bonding through adultery, fornication, contraception, and abortion? When men and women refuse to live as God intended, betraying their feminine and masculine dignity, should we be surprised that new and novel undignified forms of living result?

One of the biggest culprits in the sad situation is the absolute lie that maleness and femaleness are simply social constructs. In the early 1960s a pair of twin boys, based on 'expert' advice, were raised one as a boy and the other as a girl. The reprehensible doctor assured the parents that the boy raised as a girl, who had been accidentally emasculated as a baby, would simply grow up to be a woman so long as they raised him as a girl. The doctor had no basis for this claim but used these twin boys to 'prove' his theory that gender is a social construct, not an innate quality determined by biology. Using these twins, the doctor published false data showing that a boy could be raised as a girl. This falsified experiment is still used to justify what is happening today despite the fact that the boy raised as a girl rejected womanhood and would later commit suicide.

This case proved that maleness is innate and the same could be said of femaleness. So instead of admitting that gender is not a social construct, there is an insistence that opposite gender hormones and surgery are required to impose a socially constructed gender. The recourse to hormones and surgery demonstrates that gender is not a social construct. That doctor played God with those twins resulting in disaster. More doctors and politicians are playing God with children today. When we play God, is it likely that good will result? Do we think we are smarter than God? Really? - Fr Booth