

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 27th / May 28th 2023: Pentecost



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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: For Glenn L. Varnell, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 28th until June 3rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Fr Bill Jones from June 4th until June 10th.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on June 2nd at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on June 3rd. Altar server training will follow Mass.

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

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

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: “Come Drink the Water of Renewed Love.” Give your marriage the gift of attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – a weekend-long retreat focusing on each other, find deeper intimacy, rekindle your romance, and revitalize your marriage – and leave with a marriage that is refreshed and full of energy. From June 24th to 25th at John Carroll Catholic High School. Meals are provided but overnight accommodations are not. You can get more information or register online at www.wwme.org.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7974 and \$375 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.

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

- Sat, May 27: 4:00 p.m. † Bob Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, May 28: 7:30 a.m. † Jennifer Rodriguez (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Robert, Colette, and Therese Rodriguez
(by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
Mon, May 29: *8:30 a.m. † Jimmy Hughes (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, May 30: *8:30 a.m. † Jimmy Hughes (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, May 31: *8:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, June 1: *8:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, June 2: *8:30 a.m. † Jennifer Rodriguez (by the Donellan Family)
6:30 p.m. † Agnes Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, June 3: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Andrew Hill Family (by the Donellan
Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention of the Valencia Family (by the Donellan
Family)
Sun, June 4: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention of Lori Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention of Beth Mathews (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Madeline Sampedro, Jeff Brown, 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, Beverly Scroggins, 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. Holy Trinity | Exo 34:4-6,8-9, 2Cor 13:11-13, Jn 3:16-18 |
| 7:30 a.m. Holy Trinity | Rom 11:33-36, Mt 28:18-20 |
| 9:00 a.m. Holy Trinity | Exo 34:4-6,8-9, 2Cor 13:11-13, Jn 3:16-18 |
| 10:45 a.m. Holy Trinity | Rom 11:33-36, Mt 28:18-20 |

A Mere Lawyer Kept on Retainer?

Many people labor under a misunderstanding of how we will be judged by God. The first mistake is to think that the disciple of Christ will not be judged at all. In this theological error, the believer goes straight to heaven at death. The fact is that we will all be judged twice, first at the moment of our death when we are judged individually and then at the general judgment at the end of time when all of mankind is judged publicly. Both judgements render the same eternal verdict. It is either heaven or hell. Another error lies in the idea of a worldly courtroom-style judgment. That Jesus uses a legal term to refer to the Holy Spirit – Paraclete, meaning Advocate or Lawyer – leads some to think that their judgment will be like a human courtroom. If they have faith, the Holy Spirit will be their Paraclete, their Advocate, their defense lawyer. If they have faith Jesus will stand in for the accused believer and Jesus’ righteousness would be imputed (assigned or credited) to the believer. With Jesus as a substitute, with His righteousness imputed to the believer, with the Holy Spirit as a lawyer, how could the Father judge the one with faith as anything but saved?

Of course there are problems with this notion. Firstly, it separates salvation from morality. If faith alone saves, then there is no need to worry about our sins. This leads to the error of thinking that we have no requirement for personal conversion. Thus Luther could teach ‘Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly.’ Serious sin and saving faith coexist? Really? This mentality also leads to the misunderstanding that there is no requirement for the virtues of hope and love. Despair or presumption, both sins against hope, can coexist with faith. Hatred or indifference, both sins against love, can also coexist with faith. With this courtroom understanding of divine judgment, a believer will be saved even if he murders others (serious sin and hatred for their brethren) and commits suicide (an act of despair against hope) either by his own hand or through suicide by cop?

The thinking that Jesus stands in the dock instead of us and that the Holy Spirit merely acts as our divine lawyer leads to a confused vision of the Trinity: Jesus will be our Judge as is evident in Matthew 25:31-46, so He can’t be on the bench and in the dock at the same time. Likewise, if the Holy Spirit is simply our lawyer present at our judgment, then there was no need for Jesus to breathe the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Easter nor was there be any need for Pentecost at all. The Holy Spirit needs only to show up at our judgment. Really, really?

If faith alone saves, why does Jesus insist on baptism and repentance? Why does He say that we will be judged on our acts and not on our faith? Why does Jesus insist that we forgive our neighbors if we want to be forgiven? The list of errors and incongruities goes on and on and on. The better question is why do so many Christians buy into the idea of the divine courtroom where we are saved by faith that gives us the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, and by faith that supposedly gives us not actual but imputed, borrowed, righteousness? The simple answer is peace.

Luther formulated his heresy of salvation by faith alone because it brought him peace. He never felt forgiven, he never felt righteous, but he knew he had faith. It wasn’t for lack of effort on his part. Luther went to confession almost every day, sometimes spending six or more hours confessing his sins. Nevertheless, he never felt righteous or holy enough, but despite feeling unworthy he knew he had faith. What Luther fell into was a false sense of peace, a peace that was emotional more than anything else. In a certain way, it is a lack of hope that led him to seek peace in a watered-down Gospel. He trusted his feelings more than Jesus’ promises.

Indeed, Jesus promises us peace that comes from the gift of the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26-27). That peace is promised to us as a Person, not a feeling or emotion. The world offers to give us emotional peace, but that kind of peace is quite fickle and can be taken away. Jesus gives us true peace, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, a gift that cannot be taken away by the world. Truly, we are called to live as tabernacles of the Holy Spirit by virtue of our baptism. In other word, we should never think of the Holy Spirit as if He is like a lawyer on retainer.

- Fr Booth