

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 1st/July 2nd 2023: Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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 a.m., 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 James Mickel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 2nd to July 8th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Marian and Saverio Miranda from July 9th until July 15th.

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

FR BOOTH VACATION: Fr Booth will be on vacation from July 3rd through July 7th. There will be no Masses at Blessed Sacrament Monday through Friday this week.

FIRST FRIDAY: Due to Fr Booth’s vacation, there will be no First Friday Masses or devotions on Friday, July 7th.

LOW MASS AT 10:45: On Sunday, July 16th the 10:45 a.m. Mass will be a Low Mass due to a lack of sufficient altar servers.

FATHER JAMES E. COYLE MEMORIAL MASS: Let us remember a holy priest killed in the line of duty. A memorial Mass will be offered on Friday, August 11th at 10:00 a.m. at St Paul’s. The celebrant of the Mass will be Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, archbishop of Mobile who will be joined by Bishop Raica and priests from the diocese. The Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Father Coyle.

THEOLOGY ON TAP: Theology on Tap will meet Tuesday, July 11th at Vecchia Pizzeria (610 Preserve Pkwy Suite 100, Hoover, AL 35226). The event starts at 6:30 and the talk starts at 7:00 p.m. This month we are featuring four eastern priests as our panel of speakers. They will be sharing the Eastern Expression of the Faith followed by questions from the audience. Our speakers are Father Mitch Pacwa, Father Peter Zogbi, Father Justin and Father Gregory Edwards.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: 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 \$5921, \$200 was donated to the Preservation Fund, and the second collection for the Mission Cooperative Appeal was \$996. Many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 7-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*NO PUBLIC MASSES MON-FRI*)

Sat, July 1: 8:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
4:00 p.m. Private Intention (by Shannon Dunaway)
Sun, July 2: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Eben Sheffler (by the Lang Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Leonard Hill (by the Lang Family)
Mon, July 3: Private Intention
Tues, July 4: Private Intention
Wed, July 5: Private Intention
Thur, July 6: Private Intention
Fri, July 7: Private Intention
Sat, July 8: 4:00 p.m. † Fr John Horgan (by the Lang Family)
Sun, July 9: 7:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by the Lang Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Beverly Reid (by the Lang Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Susan Corsini, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Madeline Sampedro, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, 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, 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

4:00 p.m. 14 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Zec 9:9-10, Rom 8:9,11-13, Mt 11:25-30
7:30 a.m. 6 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:3-11, Mk 8:1-9
9:00 a.m. 14 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Zec 9:9-10, Rom 8:9,11-13, Mt 11:25-30
10:45 a.m. 6 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rom 6:3-11, Mk 8:1-9

The Cost of Fear

When Jesus sends forth the Twelve to drive out demons, cleanse lepers, cure the sick, and proclaim the Kingdom of God, He tells them “*Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves*” (Mt 10:16). Wouldn’t it have been easier to send them out as shrewd as serpents and forceful or as bold as wolves? If they are going to be among wolves, wouldn’t it be easier and more effective to go out as wolves and not a sheep, or to be a sheep in wolf’s clothing? Yes, being shrewd would be an advantage, but would simplicity be an asset or a liability for sheep among wolves? What would the natural response of a sheep be amongst wolves? Of course it would be fear, mortal fear. Sending them out two-by-two hardly alleviates that fear nor does it make the wolves any less dangerous, vicious, or ravenous.

Maybe things would be easier and less perilous if the hunger of the wolves had already been sated. Maybe. But the ultimate mission of the Twelve was not to simply survive or persist as sheep among wolves. Nor was the fundamental mission about healing, cleansing, and exorcising. No, simply put, the Apostles were sent out to turn wolves into sheep like themselves. This remains the basic mission of the Church, to convert wolves into sheep so that Jesus can be their Good Shepherd. Following our Good Shepherd and remaining in His flock is the only means of eternal salvation made available to mankind. Thus, as fearful as it might be to go among wolves as sheep, albeit as shrewdly as serpents and as simply as doves, it is not optional. Jesus makes this point in the Great Commission, His last words to the Eleven Apostles before ascending into heaven: “*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*” (Mt 18:19-20).

Today, does the Church really go out amongst wolves to convince them to become sheep in our Lord’s flock? It does not appear to be a major activity or a primary priority. The missionary activity of the Church has dwindled over the last two hundred years or so, especially in more recent years. Spiritual lethargy is at work, but false compassion is largely to blame. A live-and-let-live attitude has settled in with the Church even though that live-and-let-live attitude is no where to be found in the Scriptures, even though that live-and-let-live attitude will not be reciprocated. Those expecting or even demanding tolerance from the Church and its members have shown and will continue to show an increasing intolerance for those who believe. For example, we have been inundated with rainbow flags this last month and have had perverted doctrines shoved down our throats by the same people who insist that we keep our faith and teachings to ourselves. They have claimed that teaching the Gospel to children is a form of child abuse yet they expose young children to thoughts, acts, and images that are not only absolutely age inappropriate but also quite likely to cause grave damage to the psyches of children. Not content with with doing emotional, spiritual, and psychological damage to the most vulnerable of people, they insist that it is imperative that chemical, hormonal, and surgical interventions are done for the ‘benefit’ of the child. Doctor Josef Mengele, one of Hitler’s most brutal, sadistic, sick, and sinister henchmen, would blanch at the idea of mutilating perfectly healthy children.

How did we get here? Again, it is fear. Fear of rejection. Fear of not being liked. Fear of not fitting in. Fear of offending. Fear of being called names. Out of fear, some Christians have become wolves, some in wolves’ clothing, others in sheep’s clothing. But Jesus knows what we are up against, otherwise He would not have sent the Twelve out as sheep among wolves. Not much has changed in two thousand years in terms of people accepting or rejecting the Good News. Some will accept, some won’t. But how many will accept if no one goes out to evangelize?

While it might seem that a wolf cannot become a sheep – true for literal wolves and sheep – but both are social animals. The wolf lives in a pack with strength and violence determining who the alpha wolf is. Sheep live in herd and don’t vie for dominance and control because they have their Shepherd to lead them. If we remain in the flock and our Good Shepherd is with us, why should we be afraid of doing what He asks us to do?

- Fr Booth