

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 5th / August 6th 2023: Transfiguration



**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 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 Eileen Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from 6th until August 12th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Beverly Grisham from August 13th until August 19th.

FIRST SUNDAY: For this Sunday, the First Sunday in August, instead of having coffee and donuts, there will be a potluck breakfast following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. So bring your favorite breakfast casserole or dish to share after Mass. The normal First Sunday coffee and donut routine will resume again in September.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Seminarian Education Fund, which helps fund the education of our seminarians.

NEW SEMINARIANS: We have had a bumper crop of new men entering seminary this fall: Joshua Callahan, Michael Masny, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, and Nick Smith. This brings us to 19 men studying for the Diocese of Birmingham. Pray that we may have a similar number enter next year.

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 Cathedral. This year the celebrant of the Mass will be Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, archbishop of Mobile. Archbishop Rodi will be joined by Bishop Raica and various priests from the diocese. The memorial Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Father Coyle.

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 \$3638 and \$255 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, 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: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Aug 5:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Kay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Aug 6:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Max & Lena Cook (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Bill Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Aug 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Aug 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Morgan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Aug 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mark & Mary Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Aug 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Osorio Family (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Aug 11:	*8:30 a.m.	† J.C. Cooper, Jr (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Aug 12:	4:00 p.m.	† Lorraine McCaffery (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Aug 13:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore, Jr.)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for John Hall (by Lucrecia Hall)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Deacon Walter Henderson, Susan Corsini, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Madeline Sampedro, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, 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

4:00 p.m.	19 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	1Kings 19:9,11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Mt 14:22-33
7:30 a.m.	11 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 15:1-10, Mk 7:31-37
9:00 a.m.	19 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	1Kings 19:9,11-13, Rom 9:1-5, Mt 14:22-33
10:45 a.m.	11 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 15:1-10, Mk 7:31-37

More Dangerous than Fear or Hatred

Some say that fear itself is dangerous. Sometimes it is, but at other times fear serves a protective function, a rational response to danger, as in the fear of rattlesnakes. The fear of God, however, is a supremely good thing. It is not a servile fear or a fear of danger but a fear that comes about when we realize what God really is and how insignificant and minuscule we truly are in comparison. Fear of God also pertains to the fact that He knows exactly who we are, that He cares for us, and even loves us despite our being insignificant, minuscule, sinful, and unworthy of His notice let alone His love. He does not have to notice us, He does not have to love us, yet He does. This is a fearful reality. This godly fear ought to lead to us respecting, honoring, obeying, and loving Him above all else.

Worldly fear nevertheless can be dangerous. We do well to respect a cornered animal's fear. It becomes that more dangerous than under other circumstances. Humanly speaking, more dangerous than fear is hatred. Our culture often confuses fear and hatred. We hear of people being accused of homophobia or islamaphobia or another contrived phobias, but these are not fears. These so-called phobias are portrayed as hatred, not fear. The terms homophobia and islamaphobia hardly make sense in and of themselves, namely 'fear of self' and 'fear of islam.' Likewise, we generally assume that someone with aquaphobia does not hate water, but has a strong irrational aversion to bodies of water. People who accuse others of these modern made-up phobias often assign moral guilt to those whom they accuse, but if these are irrational phobias, how could we say that they are sins? Are aquaphobes sinning in their aversion to water? Acrophobics are sinning regarding their fear of heights? Hardly.

Unlike a true phobia, hatred is generally not irrational. True hatred is chosen, it is deliberate. They might even have a rational reason for the hatred. For example, the Pharisees and Sadducees, two schools or sects of Judaism at the time of Christ, hated one another, they saw each other as heretics. The Pharisees believed in angels, they believed in eternal life, they believed in the inspiration of the psalms, the historical books of the Old Testament as well as the books of the prophets, and they believed in the resurrection of the dead, while the Sadducees denied all of these doctrines. When under trial for being a follower of Jesus, St Paul took advantage of this mutual hatred between the Sadducees and the Pharisees: *"Paul was aware that some were Sadducees and some Pharisees, so he called out before the Sanhedrin, 'My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees; I am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead'"* (Acts 23:6). The Sadducees and the Pharisees turned on one another and the Pharisees began to defend Paul even though they had originally intended to have him put to death. Until Paul was able to tap into their mutual hatred, the Sadducees and Pharisees put aside their hatred in order to persecute Paul as a Christian.

Indeed, the Sadducees and Pharisees also put aside their hatred for one another to condemn Jesus. They even put aside their hatred for the Romans in order to have Him crucified. The nazis and the soviets put aside their mutual hatred in order to divide Poland between them in 1939. A more amazing example of putting aside hatred happened in the latter stages of WWII in Europe. The nazis hated the allies and hated the idea of losing the war. But winning the war was not their highest priority. What could possibly be a higher priority than saving your nation from total defeat in war? It turns out that even when both the Russian army to the east and the American and British armies to the west had penetrated deeply into German territory, the highest priority was given to the ongoing extermination of the Jews. Troop transports, ammunition trains, and other vital war materials were held up and hindered because transporting Jews to the death camps took precedence over actually winning the war. Why? Because the nazis were not motivated by a fear or hatred of the Jews. No, they were disgusted by the Jews. They could not lay aside their disgust like they were able to lay aside their various hatreds.

Thus, we need to be on the look out for disgust in our own lives, especially when we become disgusted with other people. We also need to understand that there are people who hate us Christians, but far more dangerous are those who find us disgusting.

-Fr Booth