

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*August 12th/August 13th 2023: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
11th Sunday After Pentecost*



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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 Beverly Grisham, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 13th until August 19th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Helen Von Hagel from August 20th until August 26th.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Tuesday, August 15th is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will have a Mass in English on Monday, August 14th at 6:00 p.m. On Tuesday, August 15th there will be a Low Latin Mass at 8:30 a.m. and High Latin Mass at 10:45 a.m.

GOING AWAY POTLUCK FOR OUR SISTERS: Later this week, we will be losing our sisters due to difficulties resulting from our insane immigration laws. We will have a farewell potluck following the Latin High Mass on August 15th. We will miss our beloved sisters.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, August 19th. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

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, Joshua Callahan, Michael Masny, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God’s call to the priesthood.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$10293, \$3000 was given for the Preservation Fund, and \$3660 was donated for the Seminarian Education 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 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)
Mon, Aug 14: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Rivers (by Helen Brandley)
6:00 p.m. Special Intention for Lauren & Patrick Rumore (Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Tues, Aug 15: 8:30 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Anthony & Elizabeth Rumore (by Paul Philip Clemens)
Wed, Aug 16: *8:30 a.m. † Clement E. Muck, Jr. (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Aug 17: *8:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Fri, Aug 18: *8:30 a.m. † Mike Smith (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Aug 19: 9:15 a.m. † Zelf Williamson (by the Donellan Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Fr Leonard Mary, MFVA (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Aug 20: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Wendy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Anthony & Elizabeth Rumore (by the Donellan Family)

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

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| 4:00 p.m. 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | Isa 56:1, 6-7, Rom 11:13-15,29-32, Mt 15:21-28 |
| 7:30 a.m. 12 th Sunday After Pentecost | 2Cor 3:4-9, Lk 10:23-37 |
| 9:00 a.m. 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | Isa 56:1, 6-7, Rom 11:13-15,29-32, Mt 15:21-28 |
| 10:45 a.m. 12 th Sunday After Pentecost | 2Cor 3:4-9, Lk 10:23-37 |

Many Thanks, Sisters!

We have been blessed by the presence of the Franciscans of the Poor of Jesus Christ since May of 2018. Bishop Baker invited the Poor of Jesus Christ to our diocese and asked that we put them up in the 'Little House' next to the rectory. The Little House, built in 1920 and last updated in the early 1970s, was in dire need of repair and renovation before the Franciscans could move in. Because the renovations were inexplicably behind schedule, their house was not ready in time for their arrival as promised. Thus Friar Gabriel and Friar Raphael, and a bit later Friar Leticio, had to live in the rectory on a temporary basis. They remained in the rectory until their house became minimally occupiable in October. Despite the housing debacle, they immediately began their ministry to the homeless of Birmingham and have continued in this endeavor ever since. In early 2020, the friars relocated to the old convent at Our Lady of Fatima, thus making the Little House available for sisters of the Poor of Jesus Christ. The sisters work with and share in the same ministry to the homeless as the friars.

With regard to the sisters, however, their time in Birmingham is coming to an end later this week. The sisters are having to curtail their outreach to the homeless not because there is no need, not because they found insufficient support from Blessed Sacrament and members of other parishes, not because they were unwelcome in the diocese or at Blessed Sacrament, not because they lack vocations, not because of any form of impropriety, and not because the sisters have chosen to leave for greener pastures. No, the problem lies in how our federal government has recently chosen to apply the rules for religious worker visas.

Given that the vast majority of the members of the Poor of Jesus Christ are from Brazil and other South American countries, they can only come here to do ministry under a temporary religious worker visa. They cannot use tourist visas, student visas, or temporary worker visas unless they come as tourists, students, or temporary skilled workers. If they were here on tourist, student, or temporary worker visas, they would violate the terms of their visas if they did religious ministry. If the diocese let them do ministry on the wrong type of visa, we would be in violation of the law. In other words, to do what the Poor of Jesus Christ do they could only be here, at least initially, on temporary religious worker visas. These visas have a duration of 30 months (two and a half years) and a second 30 month visa can be obtained allowing for 60 months of continuous presence and ministry in this country. However, at the end of that 60 month period, one of two things have to happen. Either the person holding the visa must return to their own country for at least a year before reapplying for another religious worker visa, or they could apply for a green card and remain here until the green card is granted or denied. Recently, the government has stopped accepting green card applications for temporary religious workers. What this means for the sisters is that once they have been here for 60 months, they must leave. Taking the option of applying for a green card away has disrupted the plans of the sisters (and other temporary religious workers) in a way that could not have been foreseen. This has also impacted the way the diocese obtains priests from India, Africa, and elsewhere.

Thus, the sisters faced a dilemma regarding the staffing of their various ministries throughout the country. They have communities in Kansas City, Birmingham, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Baltimore all experiencing the same problem. In order to populate these communities with at least three sisters each, they must close one of them, sadly the one in Birmingham, for the sake of the others. It is not clear whether or not this might also happen to some of the other communities at a later date. For example, the friars are remaining in Birmingham, but given the way things are, that might or might not be sustainable from a visa standpoint.

Again, we have been greatly and thoroughly blessed by the presence and ministry of Sr Brisa, Sr Cecilia, Sr Clara, Sr Isabel, Sr Liz, Sr Luz, Sr Melanie, and Sr Miracles over the last three years. It is hoped that the immigration system will be fixed soon such that the sisters of the Poor of Jesus Christ might return and resume blessing us and the people of Birmingham.

-Fr Booth