

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

September 2nd / September 3rd 2023: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
14th Sunday After Pentecost



1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840

E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
Website: www.myblessedsacrament.org

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 Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 3rd to September 9th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eugene Mason from September 10th until September 16th.

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

PRO-LIFE FUNDRAISER: The National Day of Service theme for American Heritage Girls this year is Respect Life. Therefore, Troop AL1128 is hosting a “baby shower” and donating all items to Her Choice on Saturday, September 16th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Our Lady of the Valley Social Hall. Items requested are: diapers (premie to size 6), new baby clothes (premie to 12 months), baby bottles, Similac, and baby hygiene products. Items can be dropped off on September 16th and 17th at the OLV church vestibles or brought to the baby shower. Drinks and cookies will be provided at the baby shower.

BINGO LUNCHEON: Everyone is invited to the St Elias Bingo Luncheon on Wednesday, September 27th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include a delicious Lebanese lunch and a free bingo card. They can be purchased at the door along with more bingo cards. Payment may be made by cash or check. Take-outs are available by calling ahead to (205) 837-5566. Free delivery will be made on orders of 10 or more lunches if they are called in on Monday or Tuesday (9/25 or 9/26). All proceeds will go to the orphanages in Lebanon who are in dire need of help. Call St. Elias as (205) 251-5057 for more information.

WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA: The Catholic Women of the Diocese of Birmingham are sponsoring a women's retreat to be led by Immaculee Ilibagiza, survivor of the Rwandan genocide, author of *Left to Tell* and *Our Lady of Kibeho* (and a few other books), on Friday and Saturday, September 29th and 30th, at Our Lady of the Valley parish. The retreat will last from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, and continue from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. The cost for the retreat is \$78 for two people, or \$57 for one person.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5026 and \$320 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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.

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, Sept 2: 4:00 p.m. † Clement Muck, Jr. (by the Rumore Family)
Sun, Sept 3: 7:30 a.m. † Ryan Frazier (by the Rumore Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Sophie Henderson (by the Duvalls)
Mon, Sept 4: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Megan McReynolds (by the Duvall Family)
Tues, Sept 5: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Carrie Duryea (by Monica Duvall)
Wed, Sept 6: *8:30 a.m. † Greg Gibson (by Doug Duvall)
Thur, Sept 7: *8:30 a.m. † Kurt Nichols (by Monica Duvall)
Fri, Sept 8: *8:30 a.m. † Graciela Otero (by the Jones Family)
Sat, Sept 9: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Michael Soherman (by the Duval Family)
Sun, Sept 10: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jon Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Clement E. Muck, Jr. (by the Duvall Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Fr Michael Adams, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Deacon Walter Henderson, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, 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. 23 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Mt 18:15-20
7:30 a.m. 15 th Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16
9:00 a.m. 23 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Mt 18:15-20
10:45 a.m. 15 th Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16

Persecutions, Pandemics, and Precepts

Given that there are signs of upcoming persecution, which may or may not occur, which may or may not be comprehensive in scope, and which may or may not become violent in nature, it would be good to review and to consider what our basic duties as Catholics are. Even if persecution never occurs, noises are being made about the return of mandatory lockdowns, mandates, and restrictions like we saw early in the recent pandemic. Our governments, media, and medical establishments are not being honest about how these measures failed to prevent infection, failed to flatten the curve, failed to prevent hospitalization, failed to protect the most vulnerable, and proved anything but safe and effective, so we can expect these useless measures to return to the extent that our politicians are more eager to control us than to serve us. The recent pandemic showed to what extent lust for power and lust for money can corrupt our public servants. If those in control were interested in serving us, they'd be asking why the Swedes did better, the Haitians did better, and most of Africa did better than we did during the pandemic despite the fact that we had the most vaccines and the best medical care available. For example, Americans died at a per capita rate forty-five times higher than the people of Haiti. Given the massive disparities between our two countries, even if the number who died in Haiti is under reported, we would expect that number to be reversed especially if the vaccines, lockdowns, and other restrictions were as effective as we have been told. If honesty, integrity, accountability, and transparency are lacking in those with power, can we expect our human and civil rights to be respected?

If we have civil and human rights, that means we have duties as well. No true right exists that does not have corresponding duties. If one claims a right that has no duties, then it is not a true right. As Christians, we have the right to believe what God has revealed, we have the right to worship as the Church has specified, we have the right to pray, and we have the right to exercise our faith inside and outside of the confines of our homes and our churches. Such rights are actually duties in and of themselves. Some of these rights were curtailed or usurped in various ways during the pandemic (and at other times in history), such as the government demanding the closure of churches, but even so, does the suppression of our rights negate the duties that correspond to those rights? In the general sense, no. For example, if all of our parishes were forced to close, we'd still have the basic obligations that surround the commandment to observe the sabbath. How? By remembering the sabbath and keeping it holy to the best of our ability under the circumstances we find ourselves in.

So, besides the duty to pray, obey God's commandments, and the general exercise of the faith, what are our most basic duties as Christians? The Precepts of the Church are a good starting point. According to paragraph 432 of the Compendium of the Catechism, these duties are:

1. to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation and to refrain from work and activities which could impede the sanctification of those days;
2. to confess one's sins, receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once each year;
3. to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season;
4. to abstain from eating meat and to observe the days of fasting established by the Church.
5. to help to provide for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.

A sixth precept was specified until recently: to observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage. However, that this has ceased to be listed as a precept of the Church does not mean we can ignore the marriage laws of the Church. In any case, these six things are obligatory on all Catholics even during pandemics and persecutions.

-Fr Booth