

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 9th/September 10th 2023: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
15th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**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 Eugene Mason, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 10th until September 16th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from September 17th until September 23rd.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, September 16th. 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.

PRO-LIFE FUNDRAISER: American Heritage Girls 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. 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. 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 \$7035 and \$1025 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 9:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Michael Soherman (by the Duvals)
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)
Mon, Sept 11:	*8:30 a.m.	† Wilhemina Keasler (by Helen Brandley)
Tues, Sept 12:	*8:30 a.m.	† Boyer Cheshire (by the Matthew Still Family)
Wed, Sept 13:	*8:30 a.m.	† Mary Cavanaugh (by Helen Brandley)
Thur, Sept 14:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jon Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Fri, Sept 15:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jon Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Sat, Sept 16:	9:15 a.m.	Special Intention for Jon Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Jon Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Sun, Sept 17:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Blount Family (by the Hahns)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Private Intention (by the Hahns)

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.	24 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Mt 18:21-35
7:30 a.m.	16 th Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11
4:00 p.m.	24 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 27:30-28:7, Rom 14:7-9, Mt 18:21-35
10:45 a.m.	16 th Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11

Serious Business

The Catechism states that ‘The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor: The first precept (“You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.”) requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord’ (CCC 2041-2042). This first precept requires us to keep the sabbath holy by participating in the holiest thing possible in this world, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This obligation applies to all Sundays (and holy days of obligation) and is part of observing the 3rd Commandment. Man, left to himself, will find little time for God in his life but will fill what belongs to God with trivial, mundane, and unworthy pursuits. Paragraph 2176 of the Catechism states that ‘The celebration of Sunday observes the moral commandment inscribed by nature in the human heart to render to God an outward, visible, public, and regular worship as a sign of his universal beneficence to all. Sunday worship fulfills the moral command of the Old Covenant, taking up its rhythm and spirit in the weekly celebration of the Creator and Redeemer of his people.’ Almost all peoples, even those cultures who are far removed from Judeo-Christian roots, tend to take off one day out of seven. More and more, this day of rest is used selfishly and absent any recognition of God.

Once a selfish attitude takes hold regarding the use of our time, anything that impinges upon or hinders the use of our time as we see fit becomes onerous. If we can overcome this selfishness, the participation in the Mass is hardly the burden that many people make it out to be. It is roughly one hour, plus commute time, dedicated to worshipping and thanking the One who created us, the One who sustains us, the One who saves us, and the One who loves us much more than we can comprehend. Yet many people today can’t be bothered to attend Mass. They will spend more time going out to get coffee or watching cat videos or using social media or some other trivial pursuit than they would have spent by attending Sunday Mass. To put this in perspective, do we imagine many, or even any, people lamenting on their deathbed not having had more coffee, seen more cat videos, or tweeting more inane information? If they have any religious orientation whatsoever, it is much more likely that they will regret not having been better at attending Mass on Sundays, among other moral regrets. And if they do not regret this on their deathbed, it is entirely possible that they will eternally regret not having taken the Sunday Mass obligation more seriously once they pass from this world.

In this day of moral laxity, that last statement sounds harsh. After all, deliberately choosing to skip Mass to sleep in, to play golf, to play video games, to use social media, or whatever is not like killing someone or robbing a bank. It seems to be such a small thing. It seems a small thing until we understand that we are disrespecting an infinite and all powerful God. God has a right to all of our time but asks for a mere hour a week for Mass and a day a week for our benefit and the benefit of our families. The gravity of the Sunday Mass Obligation is largely lost on people today, but that should not be the case. If it does not seem to us as serious as violating the 5th or the 7th Commandments, we have to remember that deliberately missing Sunday Mass for trivial or selfish reasons is a violation of the 3rd Commandment, a commandment that pertains to offenses primarily against God Himself.

Thus, the Catechism goes on to teach that ‘The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin’ (CCC 2181). Any unrepented grave sin done with deliberation and reflection can deprive us of the grace of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the graces necessary for our salvation, as thoroughly as committing murder, committing adultery, or robbing a bank.

-Fr Booth