

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**October 21st/October 22nd 2023: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
21st 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 Dennis G. Woods, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from October 22nd until October 28th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robin Melendez from October 29th until November 4th.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the World Mission Sunday, supporting mission churches throughout the world.

RED MASS: The Diocese of Birmingham and the Catholic Lawyers of the St Thomas More Society cordially invite all legal professionals and the public they serve to the annual Red Mass on October 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Bishop Raica will celebrate the Mass and a reception will follow the Mass.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Jor-El Godsey, President of Heartbeat International, whose core mission is the leadership supply line for the growing pregnancy help movement worldwide. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. Contact at 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: We continue with the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities 2024 campaign. If you have not received a Pledge Card in the mail, you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$20,000.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6065 and \$650 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, Oct 21: 9:15 a.m. † Duke Thigpen (by the Hall Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Susan Suter (by Trish Beaumont)

Sun, Oct 22: 7:30 a.m. † Margaret Cover Harmen (by the Juneau Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for William Gonzalez (by the Hall Family)

Mon, Oct 23: *8:30 a.m. † Mac McLendon (by Trish Beaumont)

Tues, Oct 24: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Suzanne Vickrey (by Trish Beaumont)

Wed, Oct 25: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ben DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)

Thur, Oct 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Will DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)

Fri, Oct 27: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Paula Pinter (by the Hahn Family)

Sat, Oct 28: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Amy Juneau (by the Juneau Family)

Sun, Oct 29: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Julie Sabri (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Jeremy Caparos (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Henry Louis Koprucki, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Codie Smith Fikes, 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. 30 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Ex 22:20-26, 1Thes 1:5-10, Mt 22:34-40
7:30 a.m. Christ the King	Col 1:12-20, Jn 18:33-37
4:00 p.m. 30 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Ex 22:20-26, 1Thes 1:5-10, Mt 22:34-40
10:45 a.m. Christ the King	Col 1:12-20, Jn 18:33-37

The Second Precept

So, the first precept of the Church – 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 – requires us to do something, which can be hindered by forces beyond our control, such as weather, traffic, health, and other aspects of modern life, or can be rendered impossible for many of the same reasons. Being late for reasons beyond our control incurs no sin. To miss Mass for reasons or circumstances beyond our control incurs no sin. To leave Mass early for serious reasons, reasons commensurate with the solemn duty to attend Mass from beginning to end, incurs no sin. Arriving late, leaving early, or not attending incurs no sin for daily Masses. Likewise, honest mistakes incur no sin. However, regarding obligatory Masses, to knowingly and willingly miss Mass without a good and just reason is sinful. To willingly or carelessly arrive late without a good and just reason is sinful. And to depart Mass early willingly without a proportionately serious reason is sinful.

These are not just arbitrary rules that we might be breaking. No, this is an aspect of observing the Third Commandment. All of the Ten Commandments must be seen as serious business and they exist in order to help us quantify, at least in basic terms, what it means to love God above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Surely our love for God impels us to attend Mass, from beginning to end, on all Sundays and holy days of obligation. It would be hard to argue that we love God while disobeying or neglecting what He has asked of us.

Nevertheless, we will find ourselves sinning against God and neighbor, not just regarding Mass attendance, but also in many other aspects of our lives. Again, the bar for sin is fairly low. We sin if the act itself is sinful, or if our intention is sinful, or if circumstances make an otherwise good act sinful. The act, the intention, and the circumstances must all be good for any act we do, whether in thought or deed, in commission or omission, to be good. Thus, many of the things we do will be sinful. For the sin to be mortal, the act itself must be serious, it must be done deliberately, and it must be knowingly. Thus, while the bar for sin is low, the bar for mortal sin is much higher. If all three conditions for a mortal sin are not met, then the sin is venial.

We must remember that mortal sin ruptures our relationship with God. When we sin mortally, we invite the Holy Spirit to depart from our souls such that we are no longer in a state of grace. Living in a state of mortal sin places our entry into heaven in grave jeopardy. Dying with mortal sin on our soul ought to be one of our greatest fears, arguably the greatest of fears: The Catechism makes this clear, ‘The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, eternal fire. The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs’ (CCC 1035). Thus, we must be earnest about being cleansed from all mortal sin. This is not something that we simply get around to... someday. The *Imitation of Christ* expresses this urgency as follows: ‘Every action of yours, every thought, should be those of one who expects to die before the day is out. Death would have no great terrors for you if you had a quiet conscience. Then why not keep clear of sin instead of running away from death? If you are not fit to face death today, it is very unlikely you will be tomorrow’ (Book 1, Chapter 23).

Yes, we can dodge death, but it will inexorably catch up to us. This is an absolute certainty. Also an absolute certainty is God’s mercy and the forgiveness that is made available through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That mercy is first tasted in the sacrament of baptism where we receive the Holy Spirit and are made His tabernacles. Later falling into sin, it is then through the sacrament of confession, that we can restore the Holy Spirit’s presence in our souls. This is why the Church has specified the second precept, which states that there is a duty to confess one’s sins, receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once each year.

- Fr Booth