

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**November 25th/November 26th 2023: Christ the King (English)
24th 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 Hazel Melendez, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from November 26th to December 2nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Lois Pruitt from December 3rd until December 9th.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on December 1st at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on December 2nd. Altar server training and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday there will be a potluck brunch following the 9:00 a.m. Mass in lieu of the usual coffee and donuts.

WOMEN’S ADVENT EVENT: There will be an event open to all women and young women to be held on Saturday, December 2nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m at Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood. The event, entitled ‘Advent Journey to Grace – Bringing Jesus to the World,’ will feature speaker, author, and founder of Women of Grace, Johnnette Williams. Prepare your heart this Advent for the coming of the Christ Child and learn more about your authentic femininity. The event is open to all junior high, high school, and adult ladies. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Frankline Fomukong. The event is free but please RSVP with your name, phone number, and number planning to attend to cwestbrook@womenofgrace.com

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local community. Please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached by Sunday, December 17th.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: We continue with the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities 2024 campaign. You also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$20,000.

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 \$4891 and \$8490 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, Nov 25: 4:00 p.m. † Marietta Sunga Guevara (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Nov 26: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Andrew Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Rick DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Mon, Nov 27: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Michael Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Nov 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Dr. Del Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Nov 29: *8:30 a.m. † James Cuddy (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Thur, Nov 30: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Sarah Catherine Rumore (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Fri, Nov 1: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the John Pyileski Family (by Mark P. Simpson)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for the Robert Klein Family (by Mark P. Simpson)
Sat, Nov 2: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Matthew Simpson Family (by Mark P. Simpson)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Nov 3: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Adrian Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially John Davis, Alexandra Taylor, 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, 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

4:00 p.m. First Sunday of Advent	Isa 63:16-17,19;64:2-7, 1Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37
7:30 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Rom 13:11-14, Lk 21:25-33
9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Isa 63:16-17,19;64:2-7, 1Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37
10:45 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Rom 13:11-14, Lk 21:25-33

Who Benefits?

So far we have discussed the first two precepts of the Church, the first being the obligation to attend Mass on every Sunday of the year and to attend Mass on all holy days of obligation as well as the second precept of confessing our sins at least once a year. We must remember that these are not mere rules for the sake of rules but are truly meant for the spiritual welfare and salvation of the faithful. The precepts were formulated with the salvation of souls in mind.

It would be difficult to say that worshipping God as a community once a week is a tremendous burden or somehow detrimental in some way. Yes, the way Mass is celebrated in some parishes can seem burdensome and even be scandalous, but in most cases a more reverent Mass can be found in a neighboring parish. If for example, a priest uses leavened bread and grape juice at Mass, or if he changes the Eucharistic Prayer, or if he changes the words of institution, or if he changes the readings to suit his own tastes, or if he has the congregation do ‘the wave’ to call down the Holy Spirit, or if he allows laypeople to preach or to fulfill another role reserved for priests and deacons, or if he reads his Christmas cards instead of preaching, or if he sounds more like a politician than a priest, or if he regularly does not show up to offer Sunday Mass without getting another priest to cover for him (excepting for cases of sudden illness), or whatever detracts from worthily worshipping God, then such abuses absolutely need to be reported to the bishop. Catholics have a right to the sacraments. Yet Catholics have been putting up with aberrant and unworthy liturgies for many decades. Some people have endeavored to persevere while others have simply left. But what if the laity had reported such abuses and demanded more reverent Masses? What if the bishops had been more proactive?

If the Mass itself is being abused by priests, it stands to reason that the sacrament of confession would suffer a similar fate. Priests who do not use the right formula of absolution, who try to tell the penitent that their sins are not sins (except when the penitent is truly mistaken), who tell the penitent to substitute one serious sin for another, who give general absolution without impending peril, etc. are doing no one any favors. If the priest does not use the right formula for absolution – ‘God, the Father of mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace. And I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen’ – substantially changing it, especially the part ‘I absolve you from your sins,’ it is possible that the absolution is invalid and the sins remain. If he says minor deviations from the formula, such as saying ‘I absolve you *of* your sins’ it is likely a valid absolution. The same can be said of the first portions of the formula of absolution: minor changes or omissions probably do not invalidate the forgiveness of sins. Whether the alterations to the formula are invalidating or not, why would a priest leave any room for doubting on the part of the faithful? Likewise, if the full extent of the mortal sins known to the penitent are not confessed, either because they deliberately withhold them or do not confess them because the priest insists they are not sins, then it is likely that the confession is invalid and the sins remain. Why would a penitent not want to be forgiven? Does human respect trump respect for God? Why would a priest endanger the souls of the faithful by telling them not to confess serious sins? Who benefits from doubtful, dubious, or invalid sacraments, especially the sacrament of confession? No man, woman, or child benefits in any way from invalid or dubious sacraments.

There is no doubt, however, who benefits from valid sacraments. Those who receive the sacraments worthily receive graces from God, graces that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Jesus said “*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink*” (Jn 6:54-55) and “*Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*” (Jn 20:23) for a reason. He instituted the sacraments for the same reason He was born, suffered, died, and rose from the dead. - Fr Booth