

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 17th/February 18th 2024: First Sunday of Lent



**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 Colt Hull, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 18th until February 24th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Howard Von Hagel from February 25th until March 2nd.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, March 29th will be at 2:30 p.m.).

FIRST COMMUNION: We will have our First Communion on March 10th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Rehearsal will be on March 9th at 10:30 a.m. First confessions will be available following the 10:45 Mass on Sunday February 25th, March 3rd, and following the rehearsal on March 9th.

CONFIRMATION: We are planning on having Confirmation later this year at a date that is to be determined. The bishop has offered to confirm using the new rite in Latin followed by a High Latin Mass where he will sit in choir.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2023 have been mailed. If you contributed \$250 or more you should receive your statement soon.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2024: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$7645 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$575. 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.

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, Feb 17:	9:15 a.m.	Special Intention for Chuck Ferino (by Scarlett Ferino)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Hannah Ferino (by Scarlett Ferino)
Sun, Feb 18:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Kaitlyn Ferino (by Scarlett Ferino)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlie Ferino (by Scarlett Ferino)
Mon, Feb 19:	*8:30 a.m.	† David Pandelis (by Scarlett Ferino)
Tues, Feb 20:	*8:30 a.m.	† Sandra Hopkins (by Scarlett Ferino)
Wed, Feb 21:	*8:30 a.m.	† Jimmie Pandelis (by Scarlett Ferino)
Thur, Feb 22:	*8:30 a.m.	† Jeanette Pandelis (by Scarlett Ferino)
Fri, Feb 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Kevin & Cathy Fehr (by Dianne Penney)
Sat, Feb 24:	4:00 p.m.	† Saverio Montalbano (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Feb 25:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Ryan Penney (by Dianne Penney)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Jim Darrow (by the Juneau Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Diane Norton, William Munch, Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, 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, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahan, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, 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, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mk 9:2-10
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Gen 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18, Rom 8:31-34, Mk 9:2-10
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

Jesus' Temptation

Temptation is the common plight of mankind. No one is immune. We might describe temptation as a strong attraction to something that is good, true, or beautiful or to things that merely seem to be good, true, or beautiful but truly aren't. As the saying goes, not everything that glitters is gold. In fact we may know with great certitude that the thing that is tempting us only appears to be good but truly is not. We can know that something merely seems good but is actually deleterious yet ignore that certain knowledge and let temptation hold sway over us. But why do we let our senses be fooled by the mere appearance of goodness, truth, and beauty, why do we let that illusion of goodness whet our appetite, and why do we let our appetite overcome our certain knowledge that the thing we desire is not what it appears to be and is not worth craving let alone possessing? Simple weakness.

We are weak physically and spiritually, both consequences of Original Sin, that sin of Adam and Eve that deprives us of the original innocence and righteousness with which man was originally created. None of us was born innocent in the eyes of God because none of us has a claim on a relationship with God by nature. Adam and Eve, however, were created without our fleshly and spiritual weakness and they had a unique relationship with God. So, how did they succumb to temptation? How could they be tempted when God gave them all they needed and then some?

The simple answer is doubt. Possessing the truth, even with a high degree of certitude, still leaves room for doubt. Satan plants the seed of doubt in Eve when he asks "*Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?*" (Gen 3:1) From the testimony of Genesis, God only told Adam the commandment regarding the forbidden fruit and did so before the creation of Eve. Thus, the doubt sown by Satan leads Eve to distrust of Adam. How does Eve know that God told this to Adam? How does she know whether or not Adam is telling the truth? When Satan assures them that they will not die and Eve eats the forbidden fruit and lives, Adam begins to doubt what God said and he begins to distrust his Creator. So he too falls to temptation.

But doubt does not lead only to distrust. Once distrust begins to blossom, pride rears its ugly head. Satan makes a false promise that plays on that distrust of God: "*God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods*" (Gen 3:5) It is as if Satan is saying that not only has God deceived you, He is cheating you of what is rightfully yours.

Satan uses this same gambit on Jesus. By saying "*If You are the Son of God,*" (Mt 4:3) he is trying to cause Jesus to doubt. Notice that Satan does not say 'Since You are the Son of God,' but uses 'if' instead. Only later when Satan offers Jesus "*all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence*" (Mt 4:8) does Satan appeal to pride. He is implying that God the Father has cheated Jesus by not giving Him dominion of the whole world. Jesus, being fully human while remaining fully divine, does not fall for Satan's gambit. He is genuinely tempted because He is genuinely human. Being fully human, it is possible for Jesus to doubt, to distrust, and to embrace pride. Jesus does not fall for Satan's temptation because He can infallibly discern all that is genuinely good, true, and beautiful.

Appearances of goodness, truth, and beauty do not deceive Jesus. But appearances can deceive us. So how do we protect ourselves from falling into temptation over something that merely appears to be good, true, and beautiful? We can do so only by referring to the ultimate source of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty. We have to turn to God Himself. This was the fatal error of Adam and Eve. Under temptation from Satan, did they turn to their Creator? Wouldn't God have answered had they cried out to Him? Won't God answer if we cry out to Him through prayer? Won't He answer us through the Scriptures and the teaching authority Jesus entrusted to His Church?

Even when we know God's truth and are tempted to violate it, we also need to turn to Jesus' example of self-mastery. He does not turn stones into bread because He has mastery of Himself. His human weakness doesn't control Him. Self-mastery comes through practicing the virtues. That is one reason we have the discipline of Lent, to gain self-mastery. Self-denial fosters self-mastery. - Fr Booth