

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 25th/May 26th 2024: Holy Trinity



**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 in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Tevin Williams, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 26th to June 1st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ida Olson from June 2nd until June 8th.

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI: For the Latin Mass, the Feast of Corpus Christi occurs on Thursday, May 30th. For English, it occurs on Sunday, June 2nd. Since the English Mass has been transferred to the following Sunday, Corpus Christi is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nevertheless, we will have a Latin High Mass on Thursday, May 30th at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on June 1st. Altar server training, choir practice, and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be a potluck brunch instead of the usual coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

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.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$5942 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$1670. 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 6-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

- Sat, May 25: 4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Aric Pohorelsky (by the Hahn Family)
- Sun, May 26: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Debbie Aguiar (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Dan & Stephanie Burke (by the Hahn Family)
- Mon, May 27 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Gagnon (by the Hahn Family)
- Tues, May 28: *8:30 a.m. † Jennifer Rodriquez (by the Hahn Family)
- Wed, May 29: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Rita Rumore (by Alyssa Tyler)
- Thur, May 30: *8:30 a.m. † Marie Liguotis (by the Schwager Family)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Lincoln Dooley (by the Hall Family)
- Fri, May 31: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Alyssa Tyler (by the Hall Family)
- Sat, June 1: 8:30 a.m. Private Intention
4:00 p.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
- Sun, June 2: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Pat & Mary Beth Schwager (by the Schwager Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Max von Arx (by the Schwager Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, 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, 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

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|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 4:00 p.m. Corpus Christi | Exo 24:3-8, Heb 9:11-15, Mk 14:12-16,22-26 |
| 7:30 a.m. Second Sunday After Pentecost | 1Jn 3:13-18, Lk 14:16-24 |
| 9:00 a.m. Corpus Christi | Exo 24:3-8, Heb 9:11-15, Mk 14:12-16,22-26 |
| 10:45 a.m. Second Sunday After Pentecost | 1Jn 3:13-18, Lk 14:16-24 |

Holy Trinity, a Mysterious Truth

King Solomon laments that there is nothing new under the sun (Eccl 1:9). This does not ring so true in a world where there are cars, computers, airplanes, telephones, electricity, and billions and billions of things that Solomon could not have imagined. So, was Solomon utterly wrong? Yes and no. Solomon lived in a time of virtually no innovation, but was he speaking of gadgets and technologies or something else? No, he spoke of the general condition of human life, things like riches or poverty, success and failure, toil and leisure, and especially wisdom and folly. He noted that the rich and poor, the wise and unwise, famous and obscure are all equal in death. Seen from the perspective of the human condition and not of the fruits of science and technology, Solomon was right, there is precious little new under the sun.

We labor under the illusion of progress, but we still suffer, we still sin, and we still die just like the ancients. We also fall for lies just as readily today as in the past. Among those lies are heresies against the Christian truth. Most heresies center on the nature of Jesus or on the nature of the Triune God. The early Church responded to one heresy after another against the Trinity and against Jesus. One of the earliest heresies was the denial of there being three divine Persons in the one God. The earliest form of this denial of there being three divine Persons began at about the year AD 180.

This early heresy, modalism, misunderstood the Holy Trinity to be one God with one divine Person. The motivation here is much like the objections that come from Islam and Judaism, namely that God could only be one Person. The argument is that God must be one Person because there can be no complexity in God. There really is no basis for this argument of divine simplicity. It might be intellectually attractive, but it is not a matter of necessity. Properly understood, God must be outside of space, matter, and time, which are all aspects of the world He created. He is thus omnipresent, immaterial, and immortal. But there is no logical requirement for the Creator of all there is to be simple or even to be personal in nature. We can deduce that God is omnipresent, immaterial, and immortal by what He has created, and looking at creation we can deduce that He is all powerful, but knowing much more than this requires God to reveal Himself to us. He has revealed that He is personal and we can deduce from that He is all knowing since knowing is part of personhood. That He is loving and indeed that He is love are known to us by virtue of His revealing these qualities to us.

The heresy of modalism tried to square the human notion that God must be simply one Person with what was revealed by Jesus, that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The modalists argued that the one Person of God manifested Himself in one of three roles: sometimes God is the Father, sometimes He is the Son, and other times He is the Holy Spirit. So, under the thinking of the modalists, God donned different roles for different purposes much like an actor might play three different parts in a movie, like Peter Sellers in *Dr. Strangelove* and *The Mouse That Roared*. While this heresy might have seemed to solve the problem of wanting a God whose nature was simple and the revealed truth of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, it really makes a mess of Jesus' pleas to the Father: "*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will*" (Mt 26:39), "*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do*" (Lk 23:34), "*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit*" (Lk 23:46).

Not long after modalism reared its ugly head, a man named Sabellius tried to salvage modalism by teaching that God had one Person only but that Person has three separate personalities that manifest as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In doing so, Sabellius managed to introduce complexity into the divine nature while at the same time ascribing mental illness to the Almighty. Yikes.

Although modalism and sabellianism are old heresies, they are returning in certain protestant denominations. Indeed, when it comes to heresy, it is safe to say that there is nothing new under the sun. Our capacity for being misled is also nothing new under the sun. Thus, we must insist on letting God be God as He has revealed Himself: One God in three equally divine Persons. - Fr Booth