

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

June 29th/June 30th 2024: 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
6th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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 Omer & Ida Hull, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from June 30th to July 6th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of James E. Mickel from July 7th until July 13th.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on July 5th 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 July 6th. Altar server training and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be 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.

LAY DOMINICANS: Adult men and women who have been Catholics for at least two years are invited to learn about the Dominican Laity and see if this is where God may be calling you. The pillars of Lay Dominican life center around prayer, study, apostolate (sharing our faith with others in ways appropriate to the laity), and community (monthly meetings on Sunday afternoons in Birmingham). As lay members of the Dominican Order, we are drawn together by the love of St. Dominic, and invite you to consider joining us! To learn more, contact Pam Leverett, chapter president, at pcleverett_66@outlook.com.

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

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, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, and Matthew Gagnon.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$6921 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$55. 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, June 29: 4:00 p.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, June 30: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Scott Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, July 1 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Valencia Family (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, July 2: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention of the Isbel Family (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, July 3: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the McClear Family (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, July 4: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Hall (by the Hall Family)
Fri, July 5: *8:30 a.m. † Bernice Rohling (by Danny & Judy Rohling)
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Sergio Ruiz-Hernandez (by Alex Ruiz)
Sat, July 6: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ben & Annabelle DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
4:00 p.m. † Robert C. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, July 7: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Abby DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Will DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, 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

4:00 p.m. 14 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Eze 2:2-5, 2Cor 12:7-10, Mk 6:1-6
7:30 a.m. 7 th Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21
9:00 a.m. 14 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Eze 2:2-5, 2Cor 12:7-10, Mk 6:1-6
10:45 a.m. 7 th Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21

A Problem Already Solved

We have a strong tendency to equate our minds with our very being. With regard to the mind, science fiction has dallied with the possibility of taking a human mind and transferring it into some sort of computerized brain. This manmade brain could host the mind, keeping it alive, if alive is even the right term. They would have microphones for ears, cameras for eyes, and speakers for a voice. Maybe the other senses could be accommodated or simulated somehow. Of course there would have to be a body of some sort, a robot allowing motion and movement. The robot body would be upgraded and replaced as necessary and when the computerized mind begins to wear out, then the mind is transferred to a new model, making the mind of a person live on perhaps indefinitely. This fantasy idea springs from mankind's fascination with and desire for immortality.

But will an artificial body – limbs, eyes, nose, ears, and other body parts – substitute for our real flesh and bone body? Perhaps, but perhaps not. Having heard with our ears, will microphones compete? We might imagine that they will be better than natural ears. Surely musicians living in android bodies can be given and retain perfect pitch. They can manipulate the bow and finger the strings of a violin or cello better than they might have in their human bodies. But would it be the same? Would playing like a virtuoso be satisfying if that skill is artificial or enhanced by technology? A silicon brain and mechanical body could play the violin nearly perfectly, but could they do so with passion or feeling? Would our emotions and feelings be real? Would there be tears of joy when a great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother sees her great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great granddaughter get married? Even better, what if we are wrong about the mind being the center of our being, what if it was the heart?

The fact is that we are rational animals, as St Thomas Aquinas defined man, and we really can't reduce ourselves to rationality alone. Reductionism is a modern and typically American thing, but reductionism is far more dangerous than we might imagine. Reducing man to either a mind or a body leads nowhere good. If we are just a mind, then young children and the elderly cease to be human or fully human. If we are just bodies, if our thoughts and feelings and memories and dreams are merely artifacts of biochemistry, then where is human dignity? At that point, are we not an assemblage of chemical reactions that happens to be self-aware? St Thomas' definition acknowledges that we are mind and body, that we are physical and spiritual. Our rationality – our intellect and our will – are what make us and no other worldly creature made in the image and likeness of God.

The Church even mirrors the nature of man. St Paul makes this point in the first Letter to the Corinthians: *“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body,’ it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body,’ it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended”* (1Cor 12:12-18). Using Paul's analogy, can the eye say because I am not the mind I am less than the mind? Not really. The lesser parts of the body are no less important than the mind and the mind is not the essence of being human even though the intellect and the will distinguish us from other creatures.

In any case, our human desire to live for more than 60, 70, or 80 years is satisfied not in this world but in the world to come. We don't need technology to come to our rescue because Jesus has already done so. Yes, when we die and are cleansed of all that is worldly in purgatory, we will live in heaven as spirits enjoying spiritual bliss. It is at the resurrection at the end of time that we will enjoy the fullness both spiritual and bodily bliss in heaven.

- Fr Booth