

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>/September 29<sup>th</sup> 2024: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
St Michael (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
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Phone: (205) 785-9840**

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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 Eileen & Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from October 6<sup>th</sup> to October 12<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jeremy Noblitt from October 13<sup>th</sup> until October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE ON RETREAT:** Our diocesan priests (those who are not in a religious order) will be on retreat from Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Masses at Blessed Sacrament that week, including First Friday.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Due to the priest retreat, there will be no First Friday Masses.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on October 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** This is Sunday for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal campaign. You should receive a Pledge Card in the mail soon, but you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$28,000.

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT:** A semi-silent retreat will be held from Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at Casa Maria in Irondale. The retreat is open to men and women aged 18 to 35 and will be led by Fr John Sica, OP. More information can be found at the following website: <https://sisterservants.org/schedule.php>

**HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET:** The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Alison Centofante, Founder of Centofante Strategies, a Huntsville-based consulting firm, is a child advocacy innovator, in-demand public speaker, activist, and writer with over ten years of experience speaking on abortion, marriage, human dignity, and religious freedom. 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. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or [hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org](mailto:hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org)

**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 week was \$4478 and \$800 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, Sept 28:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Andrew Rumore (by the DiPiazza Family)
Sun, Sept 29:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Fernandes Family (by the Halls)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for the Leahmann Family (by the Halls)
Mon, Sept 30	<b>Retreat</b>	† Marvin Weniger (by John & Lucrecia Hall)
Tues, Oct 1:	<b>Retreat</b>	Special intention for Terry & Charlotte Rumore (by the Hahns)
Wed, Oct 2:	<b>Retreat</b>	Special intention for Michelle Head (by the Hahns)
Thur, Oct 3:	<b>Retreat</b>	Special intention for Joseph Hahn (by the Hahns)
Fri, Oct 4:	<b>Retreat</b>	Special intention for Jeff & Jeanne Darrow (by the Hahns)
Sat, Oct 5:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Sr Madeleine Marie (by Cora Duvall)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Sr Rita Marie (by Cora Duvall)
Sun, Oct 6:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Fr Vincent Sofie (by the Duvalls)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Sgt. Kenneth Knight (by the Duvalls)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Madeline Sampedro, George Sampedro, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, 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, 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.	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Gen 2:18-24, Heb 2:9-11, Mk 10:2-16
7:30 a.m.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 5:15-21, Jn 4:46-53
9:00 a.m.	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Gen 2:18-24, Heb 2:9-11, Mk 10:2-16
10:45 a.m.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 5:15-21, Jn 4:46-53

## *Proper Hope*

Too many people today place their hopes in what the world can provide, and even worse, what worldly people promise on behalf of the world. It is easy to fall for this because we live in the world and almost everything is mediated to us through our experience of the world. The world understood as the earth, the sky, the oceans, and the celestial realms are neutral. In fact, they are so neutral as to be utterly indifferent to the plight of mankind. If we are fearful, angry, sad, lonely, or distraught, the world continues in a relentlessly indifferent manner: the sun still rises, the ocean tides come in and recede, the winds blow, the stars twinkle, and earth remains steadfastly indifferent under our feet. The world understood as the human institutions, governments, societies, corporations, and individuals that oppose God and His people, however, are not neutral and are at best indifferent. They are generally oriented toward one or more vices. Corporations by nature are focused on profits. More often than not, the quest for profits comes at the expense of virtue. Products are sold through a degree of deception, perhaps through the objectification of women, and by exploiting people's vulnerabilities. Governments are needed and ought to regulate society by pursuing justice, peace, prosperity, and human dignity. The people entrust governments with power and authority with these goals in mind, but that power and authority are easily abused for partisan or self-serving objectives. Societies are meant to give us a practical worldview by enshrining generational wisdom, truth, and experience but they can also propagate foolishness, falsehoods, and negate the hard earned lessons of former generations. Societies can lose their minds by saying communism can actually work when it never has, that men can become women, and so forth. This is the world that promises much but does not deliver. This is the world where satan invisibly reigns.

Even when human institutions strive for all that is good, they are ultimately unable to fulfill human hope. Yes, human hope can be briefly satisfied through the world, yet we will still be left wanting. Dream jobs come to an end, positive election results will be squandered, obvious truths will be denied, justice will be perverted, and so forth. This is why our hopes should not belong to this world but to God. Catechism paragraph 1817 reads 'Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful"* (Heb 10:23). *"The Holy Spirit... he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life"* (Titus 3:6-7).'

Thus, our primary hope needs to be placed in Jesus' promises that lead to everlasting life in heaven. Nowhere else but heaven is where human hope and desire are truly fulfilled. All other hopes and desires we might have must be subordinate to and oriented toward obtaining heaven. Any pursuit of fulfillment or happiness that is not compatible with seeking heaven is not going to bring us lasting happiness and places obtainment of ultimate happiness in heaven in jeopardy. Hopes and desires that contradict the seeking of heaven, often hopes and desires that are sinful in and of themselves, will almost always result in dissatisfaction and suffering. If there is any joy or satisfaction in worldly hopes and desires, it is false and fleeting. The world, however, will insist that continued pursuit of worldly hopes and desires will pay off in the end. There is indeed a payoff, but it is not the reward sane people seek. Many people end up on this path out of human weakness.

Keeping our attention focused on obtaining heaven is not easy. The world (human institutions, our government, our society, various corporations, and our neighbors) try to distract us and we are easily distracted. We are also easily fooled, even more so than Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. This is why we need the help of God's grace. This is why we must turn to the Lord for His help and His strength. The world pretends to care about us, but God has a true concern for our well-being and our perpetual happiness.

- Fr Booth