

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

October 5th/October 6th 2024: 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
20th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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. 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 6th to October 12th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jeremy Noblitt from October 13th until October 19th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Pledge Card in the mail for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, but you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhbm.org. The money collected remains in the diocese, supporting charitable outreach as well as several diocesan offices. Our goal for this year is \$28,000.

HURRICANE HELENE 2nd COLLECTION: We will have a second collection next weekend for the victims of Hurricane Helene. Or, contributions can be made directly to the Bishop’s Disaster Relief Fund, which can be found at <https://www.bhmdiocese.org>

BINGO LUNCHEON AT ST ELIAS: St Elias will host a bingo luncheon on Wednesday, October 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon can be purchased at https://stelias.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL_V4-2024-bingo-luncheon-info.pdf or more information can be obtained by e-mailing rosamarie@stelias.org

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT: A semi-silent retreat will be held from Friday, October 11th to Sunday, October 13th 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 7th 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

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 \$4572 and \$550 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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, 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)
Mon, Oct 7	*8:30 a.m.	† Brandon Stewart (by the Hahns)
Tues, Oct 8:	*8:30 a.m.	† Brodie Hall (by the Hahns)
Wed, Oct 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Stephanie Burke (by the Hahns)
Thur, Oct 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jenny Caparos (by the Hahns)
Fri, Oct 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Julie Sabri (by the Hahns)
Sat, Oct 12:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Ms. Hemphill (by the Hahns)
Sun, Oct 13:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Dominic Rumore (by the Darrow Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

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, 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.	28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 7:7-11, Heb 4:12-13, Mk 10:17-30
7:30 a.m.	21 st Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 6:10-17, Mt 18:23-35
9:00 a.m.	28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 7:7-11, Heb 4:12-13, Mk 10:17-30
10:45 a.m.	21 st Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 6:10-17, Mt 18:23-35

There is No Hope Like Theological Hope

St Paul's discussion on what love is and what love is not – "*Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous...*" – found in the 13th chapter of First Corinthians concludes with a statement that puts love in perspective. This statement, after defining what love is and what it is not, places love above hope and even above faith: "*So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love*" (1Cor 13:13). It is not uncommon for an emphasis to be placed on faith, especially given the rallying cry 'salvation by faith alone' of the so-called reformation. If salvation is by faith alone, then St Paul is wrong in saying that love is superior to faith. St James would be wrong in saying "*What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him?... So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead... You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder*" (James 2:14,17,19). Even Jesus' own words are nullified by the error of salvation by faith alone: "*Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers'*" (Mt 7:21-23).

The error of salvation by faith alone is nonetheless seductive to many Christians. This is especially true for us Americans because of our penchant for shortcuts and our affinity for reductionism. To be clear, however, we are not saved by our works apart from faith. We can say that we are saved by Christ alone and by grace alone because there is no salvation through anyone or anything other than Jesus (Acts 4:12) and because salvation is an unmerited gift: "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Eph 2:8-10).

Given that faith, hope, and love remain and are essential to our salvation, it should not be surprising that these theological virtues would be under attack. Faith, hope, and love are called theological virtues because they have God as their object. Our faith is to be placed in God. Our hope is to be in His promises. Our love is to be directed toward God. Yes, we can have faith, hope, and love in our fellow man, but God must come first and foremost. One can have faith that a spouse is loyal and supportive. One can hope that a mechanic will properly fix their car or air conditioner as promised. One can love their neighbor, even people they don't like. But people can be unfaithful, untrustworthy, and unloving. People will tend to fail us and betray us, but God simply won't.

Indeed, satan implied to Adam and Eve that God was unfaithful and untrustworthy when he tempted Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit, saying "*You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil*" (Gen 3:4-5). It should hardly surprise us that the world does much the same. We saw this in the recent pandemic. People were told to place their faith in one and only one medical intervention with the promise that this would prevent transmission of the disease and bring us more rapidly to the point of reaching so-called herd immunity. Does anyone remember herd immunity? Does anyone use this phrase today? Was it achieved? Herd immunity is no longer discussed not because it was achieved in the U.S. but because, nearly 5 years into the pandemic, Covid is still circulating with a current test positivity rate of nearly 15% according to the CDC.

It is understandable that people placed their faith and hope in modern medicine given the fear that was generated. But the number of people that are getting the latest boosters is a small fraction of the population. It is no wonder. If people followed CDC recommendations, they would be on their eighth or ninth shot, an unprecedented number of vaccines in the history of vaccines. Soon faith in the government health organizations, big pharma, and doctors in general will cease to be and so will trust in their guidance. But God remains worthy of faith, hope, and love yesterday, today and forever. - Fr Booth