

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 23rd/March 24th 2024: Palm Sunday



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

IN MEMORIAM: For Maxine Olson, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 24th until March 30th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Chester Olson from March 31st until April 6th.

PALM SUNDAY: Due to time constraints, for the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Palm Sunday the abbreviated Gospel will be used, the palms will be previously blessed, and there will be no procession. Also, the 10:45 will be a Low Mass.

CHRISM MASS: Due to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, there will be no morning Mass at Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, March 26th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 29th at 2:30 p.m.

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 have received your statement.

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, and Dominic Rumore.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$5644 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$950. 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Thur, Mar 28:	5:30 p.m.	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	Latin High Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri Mar 29:	1:30 p.m.	Confessions
	2:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
	3:00 p.m.	Latin Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Sat, Mar 30	8:00 p.m.	High Easter Vigil Mass in Latin
Sun, Mar 31	7:30 a.m.	Easter Low Mass in Latin
	9:00 a.m.	Easter Mass in English
	10:45 a.m.	Easter High Mass in Latin

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

Sat, Mar 23:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Mary Claire Clemens (by the Rumores)
Sun, Mar 24:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Shannon Sykes (by the Rumore Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Miriam Tate (by the Rumore Family)
Mon, Mar 25:	*8:30 a.m.	† Bill Weis (by M.J. Kelly)
Tues, Mar 26:		<i>Chrism Mass at the Cathedral</i>
Wed, Mar 27:	*8:30 a.m.	† Anita Coe (by the Jones Family)
Thur, Mar 28:	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for the Martire Family (by the Jones Family)
Fri, Mar 29:	3:00 p.m.	<i>Good Friday Liturgy</i>
Sat, Mar 30:	8:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Michael Masny (by John & Lucrecia Hall)
Sun, Mar 31:	7:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for AnnaLu Hemphill (by John & Lucrecia Hall)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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, Gail McMahon, 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

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil	Gen 1:1-2:2, Exo 14:24-15:1, Isa 4:2-6, Deut 31:22-30, Col 3:1-4, Mt 28:1-7
7:30 a.m. Easter Sunday	1Cor 5:7-8, Lk 24:1-12
9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34,37-43, Col 3:1-4, Jn 20:1-9
10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday	1Cor 5:7-8, Lk 24:1-12

Surely it is Not I, Lord

Jesus predicted three times that He would be handed over, scourged, and crucified. Each time, the Apostles misunderstand or reject what Jesus says about His passion. After the first prediction Peter objects that such a thing would never happen only to have Jesus say “*Get behind me Satan!*” (Mt 16:23). At the Last Supper, however, they hear and understand Jesus just fine when it comes to his betrayal. The Apostles are all scandalized when Jesus proclaims “*Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me*” (Mt 26:21). They are shocked and dismayed. Even Judas would have been shocked. After all, he has plotted against Jesus in total secrecy. Surely Jesus does not know about it. Despite the fact that he is minutes away from betraying Jesus, Judas probably thinks that Jesus is talking about someone else. Judas can join the Apostles in asking “*Surely it is not I, Lord?*” (Mt 26:22).

In response to the Apostles’ questions, Jesus does not really clarify things much. In saying “*He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me,*” (Mt 26:23) Jesus has not narrowed things down at all. All of the Apostles have dipped their food into the dish. This ambiguity remains even for Judas who still thinks he has betrayed Jesus in utter secrecy. He can still confidently ask “*Surely it is not I, Rabbi?*” (Mt 26:25). Honest men tend to see others as honest, so the other Apostles are bewildered at the prospect of one of their own doing this. Dishonest men like Judas often see dishonesty in others, so Judas might have assumed others were betraying Jesus and perhaps He is referring to someone else’s plot to betray Jesus.

Jesus privately confirms to Judas that He knows about the plot when He says “*You have said so*” (Mt 23:25). But the ambiguity remains for the other eleven Apostles. Why didn’t Jesus come out and say that it was Judas? Why didn’t He let the others off the hook, let them continue the Passover without the specter of betrayal hanging over each of their heads? Surely the Apostles were wondering to themselves who the traitor might be. Being basically honest men, they don’t even begin to suspect that it is Judas when Jesus says to Judas “*What you are going to do, do quickly.*” We are then told “*Now none of those reclining at table realized why [Jesus] said this to him*” (Jn 13:27-28).

With the exception of Judas, all of them are pretty confident that they are innocent and that the last thing in the world they intend to do is to betray Jesus. All joined Peter in proclaiming “*Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you*” (Mt 26:35). Despite the likely sincerity of their pledge, not one of them is brave enough to die with Him and all deny Jesus that very night either by running away and in Peter’s case, publicly denouncing Jesus.

This is why Jesus left the identity of His betrayer ambiguous. All twelve Apostles betray Him in one way or another, to one degree or another. Ultimately, this is also true for us. All of us betray Jesus in one way or another, to one degree or another. We do so when we sin. We do so when Jesus takes second or third or fourth priority in our lives. We do it when we can’t even give Jesus one hour of our time a week, choosing instead to give Him perhaps as many as two hours a year. We do it when we run away from our responsibilities and commitments like His disciples did on Holy Thursday. We do it when we deny the fact that we are Christians, just like St Peter.

So we are not much different from Peter, James, John, or even Judas. Our betrayal differs only by a matter of degree and a matter of frequency. We can’t shake our fist at Judas because we have probably betrayed Jesus for less than thirty pieces of silver. We can’t shake our heads at Peter’s weakness because we have denied Jesus more frequently than he did. We can’t wag a finger at those who shout “*Let Him be crucified!*” because our sins brought Jesus to the cross.

Despite our propensity to betray Jesus, we must never abandon Jesus despite the many ways we betray Him. Jesus knows how weak the flesh is. But if our spirit is unwilling, we leave Him no opening to cleanse us of our numerous betrayals. Indeed, the only difference between Peter and Judas was that Peter had a willing spirit, a desire to be with Jesus despite his unworthiness. Despite being weak of flesh may we have a willing spirit now and for the rest of our lives.

- Fr Booth