

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> / May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024: Pentecost**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211**

**Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)**

**Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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 Alexander Salillas, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 19<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Tevin Williams from May 26<sup>th</sup> until June 1<sup>st</sup>

**THIRD SUNDAY:** This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** For the first Sunday in June, that is June 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a potluck brunch instead of the usual coffee and donuts.

**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 \$9430 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$200. 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 18: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Father Bryan Jerabek (by the Hall Family)  
4:00 p.m. † Gloria Archambault (by the Bryant Family)

Sun, May 19: 7:30 a.m. † Justin Hunter (by Edmund Fay)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. † Salvatore Riccardi (by Alan & Pam Olson)

Mon, May 20 \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention William & Beverly Scroggins (by the Hahn Family)

Tues, May 21: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Jo Fernandes (by the Hahn Family)

Wed, May 22: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Meeker Family (by the Hahn Family)

Thur, May 23: \*8:30 a.m. † Gerald Kessler (by the Hahn Family)

Fri, May 24: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Lang (by the Hahn Family)

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)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially 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**

4:00 p.m. Holy Trinity	Deut 4:32-34,39-40, Rom 8:14-17, Mt 28:16-20
7:30 a.m. Holy Trinity	Rom 11:33-36, Matt 28:18-20
9:00 a.m. Holy Trinity	Deut 4:32-34,39-40, Rom 8:14-17, Mt 28:16-20
10:45 a.m. Holy Trinity	Rom 11:33-36, Matt 28:18-20

## *Work of the Holy Spirit*

Years ago, I was sent to a big youth conference attended by six thousand high schoolers. It was going to be a long, long weekend. I kept an open mind and hoped for the best until the conference began with ‘Christian rap music.’ The rap genre of music often promotes things contrary to the Gospel: misogyny, racism, hatred, violence, drugs, crime, etc. Baptizing rap with Christian lyrics doesn’t work because the medium carries its own message. Ever hear of Christian disco? Christian polka? There is a reason for this. Disco and polka are associated, for good or ill, with dancing, not the divine.

After about forty-five minutes of this terrible music, an event organizer asked if I would mind hearing confessions. Saved! My joy stemmed from being able to act as a priest as opposed to being a spectator at a musical train wreck. There were fifteen or so other priests and several hundred kids already lined up for confession. And the kids kept coming in droves. Over the course of that weekend, the available priests were tied up from morning to night in confession.

Somewhere between half and three quarters of those kids went to confession that weekend. As difficult as it is to get a teenager to clean his room, it can be even more difficult to encourage them to cleanse their souls by going to confession. But these kids did not need to be browbeaten or guilted into going to confess their sins. For some, this was their third confession, the first being before First Communion and the second preceding their confirmation. Others were frequent confessors while others had not been reconciled in over a year. Nevertheless, almost all gave very complete, well prepared, and sincere confessions. I don’t think I heard any of the kids give impossibly pious confessions. No, they gave true and honest confessions. Very few tried to mumble or rush past their worst sins. They wanted very much to be forgiven.

Some might say that the prospect of going to confession with an unknown priest motivated these kids to make good confessions. No, many went to their own priests. Some might say that these kids were not typical Catholic teens, products of parochial schools or home schooling. No, they were typical teens. Some might also say that the conference motivated them to confess. The conference might have been a factor, the availability of priests certainly was a factor, the desire of these young people to be right with God certainly was a factor, but it was the Holy Spirit that was the ultimate factor.

Just like on Pentecost, after Peter preaches the Gospel for the first time, the people “*were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, ‘What are we to do, my brothers?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’*” (Acts 2:37-38). It was the Holy Spirit that cut the people to the heart at Pentecost, the same was true at that youth conference, and the same is true whenever someone is moved to repent and go to confession.

It is by the merits of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection that we have the sacrament of confession and it is by Jesus giving His Apostles the Holy Spirit that they can forgive sins in Jesus’ Name. On Easter Sunday Jesus says “*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained’*” (Jn 20:21-23). Empowered and motivated by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles are sent to bring forgiveness.

So we must not see Pentecost as a mere historical event. It is an ongoing reality. That youth conference is a great example. That three to five thousand kids went to confession may not qualify as a bona-fide miracle, but it is certain that the rap music and the conference itself do not deserve the credit. Ultimately the Holy Spirit moved the hearts of the kids to repent and it was the Holy Spirit that empowered the priests to reconcile them with God.

So let us not ignore the prompting of the Holy Spirit, who was poured forth upon the Church for the sanctification, reconciliation, and salvation of the world. While the Holy Spirit does the heavy lifting for us, He will not force us to repent against our will. We must be docile to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead us through Jesus Christ to the Father and life everlasting in heaven.

- Fr Booth