

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 16th/August 17th 2025: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)

10th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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

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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.

NOTICE ON CHECKS: Please make out all checks to Blessed Sacrament or Blessed Sacrament Church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Beverly Grisham, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 17th to August 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Helen Von Hagel from August 24th until August 30th.

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.

NAZARETH HOUSE VOLUNTEERS: Catholic high-school students interested in working with children and youth having intellectual and developmental disabilities, in a Saturday morning program of religious education, are invited to a training workshop on Saturday, August 16th. The training workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School. Those who participate in the Nazareth House Saturday Program are eligible for service hours that meet the requirements for high school graduation and college scholarship applications. For further information contact Sarah Houser LICSW (sawiseiv@gmail.com) (205) 612-6111 or Fr Patrick Cullen (Rathmines.Cullen@gmail.com)

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 Amanda Lang, chapter president, at justin.amanda.lang@gmail.com

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$11,413, \$1050 was given for the Preservation Fund, and \$1645 was donated toward the Seminarian Education Fund the previous week. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about an 8-and-a-half month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

- Sat, Aug 16: 9:15 a.m. † Brandy Wooten (by Shannon Dunaway)
4:00 p.m. Special intention for Bede Ezekiel Zambon (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)
- Sun, Aug 17: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Deacon & Mrs. Robinson (by Hahns)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Veronica Hahn (by Hahn Family)
- Mon, Aug 18 *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Cyprian Hahn (by Hahn Family)
- Tues, Aug 19: *8:30 a.m. † John Cooney (by the Hahn Family)
- Wed, Aug 20: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for the Mathews Family (by the Juneau Family)
- Thur, Aug 21: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for the Bull Family (by the Juneau Family)
- Fri, Aug 22: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Mary & Bob Wiseman (by the Juneau Family)
- Sat, Aug 23: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Jeff, Jean, & Jane Darrow (by the Juneau Family)
- Sun, Aug 24: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Judy Rohling (by the Juneau Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Danny Rohling (by the Juneau Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, 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, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, 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

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| 4:00 p.m. 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 66:18-21, Heb 12:5-7, 11-13, Lk 13:22-30 |
| 7:30 a.m. 11 th Sunday After Pentecost | 1Cor 15:1-10, Mk 7:31-37 |
| 9:00 a.m. 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 66:18-21, Heb 12:5-7, 11-13, Lk 13:22-30 |
| 10:45 a.m. 11 th Sunday After Pentecost | 1Cor 15:1-10, Mk 7:31-37 |

Limited Atonement?

Some people will object at the idea that Jesus died for all but not all are saved. Why would Jesus die for those who are not saved? Since Jesus, through divine foreknowledge, knows who will be saved and who will be damned, why would He suffer for those who will reject His offer of salvation? The offer of salvation is a key concept here. He offers, but not compels or coerces or forces salvation. God offers salvation to all and He wants all to know the Gospel of truth. If not, why would Jesus given the Great Commission: *“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age”* (Mt 28:18-20)? Just like in Jesus’ own ministry, it is clear that some will and some won’t accept the truth. The Apostles were told *“Whoever will not receive you or listen to your words – go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet. Amen, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town”* (Mt 10:14-15). Here, the Gospel is presented and rejected and that rejection has dire consequences.

It is clear from the Great Commission that the mission of the Church is to evangelize the whole world. It is also clear that not all will accept the offer of salvation. Judas had every possible advantage as an Apostle, but he let greed, grief, and despair get the better of him. He saw most of Jesus’ miracles, he heard almost all of His teachings, and he had access to the Master if he had any misgivings or doubts. Judas had his brother Apostles who also had their share of misgivings and doubts, but he did not turn to them. These graces did not profit Judas even though he was presented with them all. The fault here lies with Judas, not because Jesus did not die for him or because Jesus withheld the graces necessary for salvation. No, he knew what he had done but failed to repent: *“Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.’ They said, ‘What is that to us? Look to it yourself.’ Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself”* (Mt 27:3-5).

Because Judas *“deeply regretted what he had done”* he was part of the way to forgiveness, almost on the road to salvation. Jesus was still alive at this point and Judas could have approached Him for forgiveness as He hung upon the cross. If the Good Thief had been forgiven and offered heaven, how much more so Judas? Likewise, he might have come to his senses later and sought forgiveness, especially after the news of the Resurrection. Could we imagine Jesus denying Judas forgiveness? ‘I am sorry Judas, I did not die for you’? Really? Indeed, there is no sin too large or done too frequently to be beyond God’s mercy, except for the sin we choose not to repent of. Judas closed the door to repentance by ending his life.

Indeed, for the baptized Christian there is one basic path to damnation. As stated in Catechism paragraph 1037, ‘God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a willful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end. In the Eucharistic liturgy and in the daily prayers of her faithful, the Church implores the mercy of God, who does not want *“any to perish, but all to come to repentance”* (Pet 3:9).’ God’s mercy is boundless: *“For as the heavens tower over the earth, so his mercy towers over those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us”* (Ps 103:11-12).

Yes, that divine mercy knows no bounds or limits, but it must be accepted. It has already been offered by Jesus on the cross: *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do”* (Lk 23:34). It is therefore incumbent upon us to accept that offer of grace. Again, God is not going to force it upon us or grant it to us if we are unwilling or too indifferent to accept His mercy. It will likely *“be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for”* those who knowingly reject God’s offer of salvation.

- Fr Booth