

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 6th/September 7th 2025: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
13th 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 Walter Roberts, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 7th to September 13th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ann Roberts from September 14th until September 20th.

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Pledge Sunday for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal campaign for 2026 is on September 28th. 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 \$29,000.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The keynote speaker will be Joy Pinto, executive director of Her Choice. 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

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, 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 \$5531 and \$410 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 9 month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Sep 6:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention Destiny Guevara (by the Guevara Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention Jack Yaeger (by the Gagnon Family)
Sun, Sep 7:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention Agnes Regina Maziarz (by Brandon & Erin Maziarz)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Beverly Scroggins (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Sep 8	*8:30 a.m.	† William Scroggins (by the Clemens Family)
Tues, Sep 9:	*8:30 a.m.	† Peter Hunzicher (by the Clemens Family)
Wed, Sep 10:	*8:30 a.m.	† William Scroggins (by the Schwager Family)
Thur, Sep 11:	*8:30 a.m.	† Beverly Scroggins (by the Schwager Family)
Fri, Sep 12:	*8:30 a.m.	† Robert C. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sat, Sep 13:	4:00 p.m.	† Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Sep 14:	7:30 a.m.	† Dennis Jerry Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Mrs. Terri Cole (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Brian Schwager, Patrick Schwager, 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

4:00 p.m.	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Num 21:4-9, Phil 2:6-11, 12-17, Jn 3:13-17
7:30 a.m.	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Phil 2:5-11, Jn 12:31-36
9:00 a.m.	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Num 21:4-9, Phil 2:6-11, 12-17, Jn 3:13-17
10:45 a.m.	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Phil 2:5-11, Jn 12:31-36

For Mere Men Life is Unpredictable

Our lives are hardly predictable. We have a notion of what might happen in the future, but if we are certain of what happens years from now, we will almost certainly be mistaken. At some point in our lives we come to see that much of the things that happened in the past were utterly hidden from us until they happened. Yes, a young man might be such a good fielder, pitcher, and batter that getting to play in major league baseball seems like a near certainty. Or a young lady might be such a good student that a Rhodes Scholarship potentially lies in her future. She scored almost 1600 on her SATs, she has earned 20 college semester hours before graduating from high school summa cum laude from a private prep-school, making a scholarship to Oxford seem within reach.

Are the major leagues or Oxford guaranteed? Hardly. A car accident, a family crisis, cancer, or any number of life changing events might prevent either from achieving their goals. Some of those major events that might redirect their lives could simply be circumstances beyond their control. Other setbacks might be of their own making, the outcome of bad or unfortunate choices as opposed to bad luck. Or the loss of playing professional baseball or of studying at Oxford might come from the choice of something else that is not an unfortunate event. The young lady might be called to religious life or the young man might shy away from baseball for a career that is more conducive to having a family, a job where he is not constantly on the road away from his wife and children.

Such choices might be made in their early twenties and will probably lead them in directions and places they could not have foreseen. Can't we say the same thing about our faith? How many people will be able to predict how and when their faith will be challenged by the circumstances of life? Can they even be totally certain of maintaining their faith at all moments in the future, or if their faith may grow ever weaker or stronger as time passes? Not really. History is filled with people that started strong as if on fire for Christ, having the best of Christian upbringings, only to end lukewarm or even apathetic toward faith. Likewise, there are not a few wicked atheists that have seen the light and become staunch Christians with unflappable faith and devotion.

The Apostle James warns us about presuming on the future, saying *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we shall go into such and such a town, spend a year there doing business, and make a profit' – you have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears. Instead you should say, 'If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that'"* (James 4:13-15). Indeed, God's providence must not be underestimated, but it should not be presumed upon. So, we can say that we hope to grow in faith, hope, and love over the years such that we become more conformed to Christ, but we cannot guarantee that outcome beforehand.

It is very common for people to waiver in their faith, stop going to church, not bothering to pray, and letting their morals become lax in early adulthood. Were they saved before only to become fallen away from salvation? Quite possibly. Are they doomed henceforth with no possibility of redemption? Hardly. Conversion is always possible but it is not guaranteed. Yes, Jesus died for them and yes He offers salvation to them as a gift, but that gift can always be rejected. This is inconceivable to some people, that God's grace can be rejected, but if it can't be rejected it is not a gift but an obligation. Likewise, God's grace cannot be earned as if it were a wage. Through His cross Jesus earned the graces offered to us. He does not force it upon us. We see this in the Book of Acts, where *"Stephen, filled with grace and power"* (Acts 6:8) accused those about to martyr him, saying *"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the Holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors"* (Acts 7:51).

If the Holy Spirit, a divine Person, can be successfully opposed by men, how could we say that men can't reject the graces that flow from the cross? Is it possible that a divine Person can be resisted but the divine gift of grace is somehow irresistible? Unthinkable. That we can resist – reject – the Holy Spirit is exactly how we separate ourselves from God and fall from grace.

- Fr Booth