

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

October 18th/October 19th 2025: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)

19th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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 Jerry Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from October 19th to October 25th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Therese Gagnon from October 26th until November 1st.

ALL SOUL’S MEMORIALS: This year the memorials for the deceased will be offered collectively over a novena of Masses held on November 3rd through the 11th.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for World Mission Sunday, supporting mission churches throughout the world.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Pledge Card in the mail, if not you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of October 17th, we have \$20,900 pledged.

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

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, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6174 and \$655 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is a 9 month backlog on Mass Intentions and the backlog continues to grow. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. Period. No exceptions.

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

Sat, Oct 18: 9:15 a.m. † Albert Smith (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)
4:00 p.m. † Linda Smith (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)

Sun, Oct 19: 7:30 a.m. † Roberto Luna (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)
9:00 a.m. † Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Josefa Luna (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)

Mon, Oct 20 *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Bayley Maziarz (by Zach Maziarz)

Tues, Oct 21: *8:30 a.m. † Ray Myers (by Zach Maziarz)

Wed, Oct 22: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Cloe Smith (by Zach Maziarz)

Thur, Oct 23: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Roberto Luna, Jr. (by Zach Maziarz)

Fri, Oct 24: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Jose Mariano Hernandez (by the Hall Family)

Sat, Oct 25: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Mr. & Mrs. David Hahn (by the Hahn Family)

Sun, Oct 26: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Mary Agnes Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Teresa Dacar (by Alan & Pam Olson)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for 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, 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. 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sir 35:12-14,16-18, 2Tim 4:6-8,16-18, Lk 18:9-14
7:30 a.m. Christ the King	Col 1:12-20, Jn 18:33-37
9:00 a.m. 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sir 35:12-14,16-18, 2Tim 4:6-8,16-18, Lk 18:9-14
10:45 a.m. Christ the King	Col 1:12-20, Jn 18:33-37

Faith, Hope, and Love

Paying attention to how we will be judged seems like a no-brainer. Students want to know how they will be graded. How much does the final exam count? What about the term paper? Is homework a major part of the grade? Is attendance necessary? As mentioned before, there is a significant number of Christians who think that they will not be judged by God at all. They would say that judgment scenes like Matthew 25, where Jesus separates the sheep from the goats, correspond to how nonbelievers will be judged. This is problematic on multiple levels. First, this implies that the sheep, the saved, are saved on the basis of their works apart from faith. In other words, these unbelievers earn their salvation, which is a heresy called pelagianism. It makes no sense since they are saved apart from Christ and it implies that Jesus' life, suffering, death, and resurrection are nonessential. Seeing the sheep in Matthew 25 as unbelieving saints saved apart from Christ and apart from faith would suggest that there was no need for a new covenant at all: Judaism would be sufficient without the need for a Messiah. In any case, those Christians thinking that they will not be judged believe either that they will be accepted into heaven based on their faith alone or that they will not be judged because God has infallibly decreed them to be saved and infallibly decreed the rest of mankind to eternal damnation. Then again, if God infallibly decrees through His divine sovereignty some to be saved and the others to be damned, then why would there be need of any judgment scene such as Matthew 25? If salvation is either by faith alone or based solely in accord with divine decree, why would Jesus and His earliest disciples place any emphasis on morality? If it is by divine decree that some are damned and some are saved, then why evangelize if the eternal fate of everyone is predetermined irrespective of human knowledge, human freewill, and human love?

The Church has always taught that faith, hope, and love are essential virtues. All three are essential. If faith alone is essential, then hope easily becomes distorted. Christian hope is the trust we are to place in God's promises. Hope really depends upon faith since we have to believe in Jesus before we can place our trust in His promises. If faith does not lead to hope, then we see tendencies toward presumption or despair. Presumption assumes that God's favor, mercy, or anything He has promised to mankind is obtained automatically. Presumption denies the role of repentance in salvation, denies the need to take up our crosses, denies the necessity of discipleship, and denies that forgiving the trespasses of our fellow man is required for receiving God's forgiveness. Despair, on the other hand, denies Christian hope by thinking that Jesus' promises of divine forgiveness, mercy, patience, and compassion are virtually unobtainable. In other words, if faith does not lead to hope in Jesus' promises then our behavior is inconsequential to our salvation, that our sins are of no importance, or that our sins are more powerful than divine mercy and compassion. Faith must lead to hope since hope is essential to salvation: *"We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance"* (Rom 8:22-25).

The primary hope, the primary promise of Christ, is eternal life. Yes, there may be benefits to following Jesus here on earth, such as a better life, a better family, a better society, a better capacity to withstand misfortune, and so on, but none of these things can compete with the joy, peace, and glory of heaven. *"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit"* (1Cor 2:9-10). Here we see the virtue of hope, the hope of heaven, being promised to those who love God. So it is not faith alone, but faith, hope, and love. After all, our salvation is not like gym class where you can pass by showing up, you can get a better grade by suiting up, and you can get an A by participating. No, it is faith and hope and love that matter.

- Fr Booth