

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**September 19<sup>th</sup>/September 20<sup>th</sup> 2026: 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

**IN MEMORIAM:** For the Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 20<sup>th</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Elvia Trevino Garcia from September 27<sup>th</sup> until October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**MEN’S ROOM:** The former Men’s room in the Parish Hall is complete. It is now the Ladies room and the former Ladies room is now the Men’s room. The former Ladies room, now the Men’s room, will be renovated soon.

**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.

**ANNUAL RED MASS:** The Diocese of Birmingham and the lawyers of the St Thomas More Society cordially invite all judges, lawyers, law students, legal professionals and the public they serve to the annual Red Mass on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St Paul. A reception will follow.

**SEMINARY LIVE-IN WEEKEND:** The Office of Vocations will host a Seminary Live-In at St Meinrad Seminary November 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. This event is for men 18-35 years of age. The weekend is an opportunity for men to experience daily life in the seminary, attend classes, and meet current seminarians. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

**ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS:** Blessed Sacrament will begin accepting electronic contributions in the upcoming months. It will be an on-line based system that will accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, and ACH transfers.

**OCIA CLASSES:** Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes will continue on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm in the rectory chapel. Those interested in becoming Catholic at Blessed Sacrament need to attend these classes with the goal of being incorporated into the Church at Easter.

**THE BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL:** You should receive a Pledge Card from the diocese 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 \$30,885.

**PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS:** Please pray for our seminarians: Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Benjamin Caruna, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Nathan Mitchell, Nicholas Shovel, Axel Lopez, Fox Garon, Deacon Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

**PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS LIFE:** Please pray for Sister María Josefa of the Divine Providence and Jessica Saville.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$3402 and \$110 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

**CONTINUATION OF FOOD DRIVE:** The food drive begun in Lent benefitting the Franciscan Poor of Jesus Christ, who have a ministry to the homeless, and a local food bank will continue on an ongoing basis. If you have further questions, please contact Shannon Dunaway (ssullivan7606@gmail.com) or Steve and Brandy Katona (Katonafamily@yahoo.com).

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is large backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. No exceptions. The Mass Intentions for this week date from February 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

|               |            |                                                                        |
|---------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat, Sep 19:  | 9:15 a.m.  | Special intention for Agnes Regina Maziarz (by Brandon & Erin Maziarz) |
|               | 4:00 p.m.  | † Fr Joseph Arsenault                                                  |
| Sun, Sep 20:  | 7:30 a.m.  | Special intention for Beth Lauriello (by Monica Duvall)                |
|               | 9:00 a.m.  | Pro Populo                                                             |
|               | 10:45 a.m. | † Kathy Kougl (by Alan & Pam Olson)                                    |
| Mon, Sep 21:  | *8:30 a.m. | † David Pandelis (by Ferino Family)                                    |
| Tues, Sep 22: | *8:30 a.m. | Special intention for Celeste Chambliss (by Alan & Pam Olson)          |
| Wed, Sep 23:  | *8:30 a.m. | Special intention for Christian Maziarz (by Brandon Maziarz)           |
| Thur, Sep 24: | *8:30 a.m. | † Don & Mary Lynne Williams (by the Hahn Family)                       |
| Fri, Sep 25:  | *8:30 a.m. | Private intention                                                      |
| Sat, Sep 26:  | 4:00 p.m.  | Private intention                                                      |
| Sun, Sep 27:  | 7:30 a.m.  | † Mary Lynne Williams (by Alan & Pam Olson)                            |
|               | 9:00 a.m.  | Pro Populo                                                             |
|               | 10:45 a.m. | † Don & Mary Lynne Williams (by the Hahn Family)                       |

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially for James Cover, Dennis Taubitz, Suzanne Vickery, Casey Daniel, Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, Andrea Little, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

**NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS**

|            |                                          |                                        |
|------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 4:00 p.m.  | 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time | Eze 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32 |
| 7:30 a.m.  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  | 1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8                   |
| 9:00 a.m.  | 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time | Eze 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32 |
| 10:45 a.m. | 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  | 1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8                   |

## *No Bad Seats in Heaven*

In the parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, the Gospel for the English Mass this Sunday, several cohorts of men are hired to work in the Master's vineyard, which is equated to the Kingdom of Heaven. No matter how long and under what conditions they labored, they each are offered the very same wage. This outrages some of those that worked longer, harder, and in more difficult conditions. They expected more at the end of the day than what they had bargained for with the Master at the beginning of the day. This parable in no way recommends or suggests that we become slackers or be work-shy when it comes to the faith. This parable also does not imply that heaven is earned by our efforts. Rather, it is obtained by answering the call of the Master, doing what He has asked us to do, and persevering to the end no matter how early or late we started to work in the Master's vineyard. Finishing our days in the Kingdom of Heaven in this world, that is as members of the Church, matter more than when we started or the conditions under which we labored.

Ultimately, the offer of work, the task assigned, the vineyard itself, and the ability to work are gifts from the Master. The workers do their part such that the gifts come to fruition. That they all receive the same wage, does that mean that heaven will be equal for all who are found faithful in the end? The point of the parable is not the amount of the wage but that the Master is merciful, He is generous, He promises justice, and He desires disciples so much that He seeks workers throughout the day, from dawn to an hour before dusk, even though those called at the end will be minimally productive.

In a certain way, we can see the wage as the same for those hired at dawn and at the end of the day given that the wage is heaven. While there is no bad seat in heaven, so to speak, there are different places in heaven just as there are different places for the guests to sit at a wedding feast. The angels, the original residents of heaven that have been there from the beginning, occupy different places in the Kingdom of God. They are all '*ministering spirits*' (Heb 1:14) that have differing missions, they are all created for differing purposes. Some angels minister primarily to God Himself while others minister to us. Gabriel, for example, brings news to Daniel, Mary, and Joseph. Others manifest God's presence or protection, such as the angels that led the Israelites through the desert in the Exodus. Some are associated with nations, such as Michael for Israel (Dan 10:21), while others with churches (Rev 1-3). And Jesus speaks of guardian angels (Mt 18:10) as does the Old Testament (Ps 34:8 and Ps 91:11).

St Paul lists various types of angels in his letters, such as the Father "*raising [Jesus] from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come*" (Eph 1:20-21) as well as "*For in [Jesus] were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him*" (Col 1:16). Thus, Paul speaks of five types of angels: thrones, dominions (also known as dominations), virtues, powers, and principalities. The Bible also speaks of cherubim (Gen 3:24, Eze 1:5-11, etc.) and seraphim (Isa 6:1-8) along with archangels and angels. Thus, nine choirs of angels – seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominions, virtues, powers, principalities, archangels, and angels – are understood to exist in heaven. The witness of the Bible and theological speculation suggest that the seraphim, cherubim, and thrones minister most closely to God while the principalities, archangels, and angels minister from heaven mostly on the behalf of man. Neither the Scriptures or the fruits of theological thought even slightly suggest that the lowliest angel is discontent that he is not a seraph nor does a higher ranking seraph assigned to minister directly to God pity or hold in disdain the common angels assigned to be our guardians. There is harmony in heaven among the angels despite that fact that some are more powerful and privileged than others. It is pretty safe to say that there will be harmony among the saints as well even though some might sit at a more prestigious place at the heavenly wedding feast. Again, there are no bad seats at God's table.

- Fr Booth