

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**September 16<sup>th</sup>/September 17<sup>th</sup> 2023: 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



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Phone: (205) 785-9840**

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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. If you wish to join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form at the Religious Goods Counter located in the vestibule of the front entrance.

**IN MEMORIAM:** For Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 17<sup>th</sup> to September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Hazel Melendez from September 24<sup>th</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**REST IN PEACE:** Lee Dinan, nephew of Cathy Dinan, passed away on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**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.

**BINGO LUNCHEON:** Everyone is invited to the St Elias Bingo Luncheon on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include a delicious Lebanese lunch and a free bingo card. Take-outs are available by calling ahead to (205) 837-5566. Free delivery will be made on orders of 10 or more lunches if they are called in on Monday or Tuesday (9/25 or 9/26). All proceeds will go to the orphanages in Lebanon. Call St. Elias as (205) 251-5057 for more information.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA:** The Catholic Women of the Diocese of Birmingham are sponsoring a women's retreat to be led by Immaculee Ilibagiza, survivor of the Rwandan genocide, author of *Left to Tell* and *Our Lady of Kibeho* (and a few other books), on Friday and Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, at Our Lady of the Valley parish. The retreat will last from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, and continue from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. The cost for the retreat is \$78 for two people, or \$57 for one person.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$4701 and \$300 was given for the Preservation Fund. 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. May more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

**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, Sept 16:	9:15 a.m.	Special Intention for Jon Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Jon Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Sun, Sept 17:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Blount Family (by the Hahns)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Private Intention (by the Hahns)
Mon, Sept 18:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mathew Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Tues, Sept 19:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mathew Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Wed, Sept 20:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mathew Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Thur, Sept 21:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mathew Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Fri, Sept 22:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mathew Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Sat, Sept 23:	4:00 p.m.	† Clement E. Muck, Jr. (by Margaret Masney)
Sun, Sept 24:	7:30 a.m.	† Patricia Colonna (by Margaret Masney)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for the Lucia Zanella (by the Gagnon Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Fr Michael Adams, 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, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahan, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Aaron Minjares, 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, Joseph Edwards, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

**NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS**

4:00 p.m.	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24, 27, Mt 20:1-16
7:30 a.m.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46
4:00 p.m.	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24, 27, Mt 20:1-16
10:45 a.m.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 4:1-6, Mt 22:34-46

## *Serious Obligation*

Again, the first Precept of the Church is the attendance and participation in the Holy Mass on all days of obligation. The days of obligation consist of all of the Sundays of the year and the holy days of obligation. In the United States, the holy days of obligation are: January 1<sup>st</sup>, Mary, Mother of God; Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter, the Ascension; August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints Day; December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Immaculate Conception; and December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas. A holy day of obligation is not obligatory when it lands on a Saturday or a Monday in a given year with the exceptions being the Immaculate Conception and Christmas, which are always holy days of obligation no matter on what day they fall during the week. This year Christmas falls on a Monday but remains a holy day of obligation while the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God falls on a Monday next year but is not a holy day of obligation in 2024. Likewise, most regions of the country have moved the Ascension to the following Sunday, so it ceases to be obligatory by the fact that it has been transferred to a Sunday, which is always obligatory anyhow. This feast is nonobligatory for the Latin Mass even though the Ascension is still celebrated on a Thursday.

Given that upwards of 80% of American Catholics do not attend Mass on a given Sunday and even fewer attend the various holy days of obligation with the exception being Christmas, it must be reiterated that we are obliged to attend and participate in Sunday Mass and holy day of obligation Masses lest we commit a grave sin (Third Commandment and Catechism paragraph 2181). In other words, most Catholics do not take the Sunday obligation all that seriously and it should not be a surprise that over half of American Catholics no longer believe in Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. In any case, some may reason that attending most but not all Sundays is sufficient, while others might think that going to Mass on Easter and Christmas is enough (C&E Catholics). There is a growing number of people that will limit themselves to Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday only (A&P Catholics). How the A&P or the C&E Catholics conclude that this is enough is tough to fathom. There are also Catholics that consider a weekday Mass, perhaps the school Mass where their children attend, fulfills their Sunday Mass obligation. Again, hard to fathom this line of reasoning.

But what does it mean to attend and participate at Mass? The attendance part ought to be obvious, but that does not always seem to be the case. Some people will come and pick up a copy of the bulletin and then immediately leave as if the bulletin constitutes some sort of receipt demonstrating Mass attendance. Some pastors will have the ushers hide the bulletins until the end of Mass to discourage this practice. Then again, these people can show up at the end of Mass just as easily as arriving before or during the Mass. Other people will deliberately attend only a part of the Mass, perhaps showing up late or leaving early or both. The obligation is to attend Mass, not just some of it or even most of it. Deliberately arriving late, leaving early, or both is sinful unless there is a just reason. Showing up early and leaving early or showing up late and staying after Mass does not count. Time spent in the parking lot before or after Mass does not count. Taking a lap of the parking lot on Sunday does not count. Driving past the church and blowing a kiss toward the Lord does not count. We are obliged to attend, unless impeded unexpectedly (e.g., atypical traffic) or having to leave early for a just reason (e.g., illness), from the beginning of the Mass until it concludes.

So, when does Mass begin and end? For the English Mass, Mass begins when the priest begins the entrance procession either from the back of the Church or from the sacristy. For the Latin Mass, Mass begins when the priest genuflects just before the prayers at the foot of the altar. This is true for both High and Low Masses. The English Mass normally ends when the priest kisses the altar and genuflects toward the tabernacle prior to processing out of the sanctuary. For the Latin Mass, it concludes after the recitation of the Last Gospel and the server responds *Deo Gratias*. The *Asperges* at a High Mass and the Leonine prayers at a Low Mass precede and follow the Mass, respectively, but are not technically part of the Mass.

-Fr Booth