

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 23rd/September 24th 2023: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
17th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Hazel Melendez, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 24th to September 30th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Kimsom Wood from October 1st until October 7th.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: This is Pledge Sunday for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities 2024 campaign. If you have not received a Pledge Card in the mail, you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$20,000.

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

BINGO LUNCHEON: Everyone is invited to the St Elias Bingo Luncheon on Wednesday, September 27th, 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 29th and 30th, 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 \$7352 and \$200 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 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)
Mon, Sept 25: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Elisa Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Tues, Sept 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Elisa Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Wed, Sept 27: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Elisa Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Thur, Sept 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Elisa Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Fri, Sept 29: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Elisa Schnur (by Elisa Schnur)
Sat, Sept 30: 4:00 p.m. † Anthony Marino, Sr. (by Margaret Masney)
Sun, Oct 1: 7:30 a.m. † Henrietta Rataj (by Margaret Masney)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the Lena Cook (by the Donellan 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 McMahon, 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. 26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Eze 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32
7:30 a.m. 18 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8
4:00 p.m. 26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Eze 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32
10:45 a.m. 18 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8

How Late Can I Be?

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation requires us to be present from the beginning of Mass until it ends. Some of the Mass, most of the Mass, or almost all of the Mass is not what the Church has in mind. Most Masses today run about an hour to an hour and a half. Most Masses start on time. With some exceptions, almost all parishes are more predictable in when a given Mass starts than the various airlines are about their departure times. A plane will not depart before the scheduled time except in extraordinary situations. Nonetheless, most airlines highly recommend arriving at the airport two hours prior to the scheduled departure time for domestic flights and three hours before an international flight. Some airports make it such that a full two hours is normally unnecessary while others are too crowded or too inefficient resulting in the need to arrive even earlier than two hours. Are we more likely to arrive at the airport hours ahead of the departure time than we are to arrive at Mass even a minute or two early? Or to put it differently, which is more important, making a flight or offering worship to Almighty God?

Again, Mass begins when the priest processes to the altar (English) or he genuflects prior to the prayers at the foot of the altar (Latin). Arriving late will happen from time to time for unforeseen reasons such as being delayed by a train, abnormally bad traffic, difficulty in wrangling children, and the other vicissitudes of life, but will not be sinful so long as the cause for being late was unintentional and unavoidable. However, there will be times when we choose not to leave early enough, perhaps because of trivial matters like watching one too many cat videos or reading one too many Facepage posts, causing us to arrive late, then we have sinned to one degree or another. If by making deliberate bad or neglectful choices we arrive after the Mass starts, we are culpable. It might be that one family member is to blame (unless they are below the age of reason) or multiple family members might be at fault. Those who were ready on time will be innocent of any sin associated with arriving late. But how sinful is deliberately arriving late? Again, if the cause for being late was unintentional and unavoidable, no sin is committed, but deliberate arrival after Mass starts is a sin. Some will say that culpably arriving late but prior to the Gospel is a venial sin while arriving after the priest begins to recite or sing the Gospel is a mortal sin. Others will say that if you arrive before the offertory, by virtue of your deliberate choices, it is a venial sin but arriving after the offertory is a mortal sin.

Currently, neither Canon Law or the Catechism makes such distinctions. Why not? It is the mind of the Church that we should strive to attend Sunday and obligatory Masses from start to finish. However, Baltimore Catechism #3, paragraph 237 states: 'Catholics who have reached the age of seven years and have sufficient use of reason are bound under pain of mortal sin to hear Mass on Sunday. ... A person should be present for the entire Mass, from the beginning to the last Gospel. It is a venial sin to miss even a slight part of a Mass of obligation deliberately and a mortal sin to miss a notable part. The obligation to assist at Mass is not fulfilled if the Consecration or the Communion is missed.' Does this mean that stepping out with a crying baby or having to visit the restroom is sinful? Nope. Does this mean that a ten-year old child sins because his parents sinfully choose not to attend Mass? Not unless he can easily walk to church.

But what is a slight part of the Mass versus a notable part? Good question. The Baltimore Catechism does not define these terms. The Latin Mass at that time could be divided into the Mass of Catechumens and the Mass of the Faithful, or into six major parts, or about three dozen smaller parts. The current Mass has four major parts: the introductory rites, the liturgy of the word, the liturgy of the Eucharist, and the concluding rite with a total of two dozen minor parts. So, what is notable or slight?

Does this lack of specificity imply that Church has become lax? Hardly. By not specifying parts of the Mass that we can deliberately miss or ignore implies that all parts matter. Yes, some parts of the Mass, such as the consecration, are more important than others, yet those lesser parts still matter. Again, the principle is to attend Mass from start to finish. That is our obligation. -Fr Booth