

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*October 28th/October 29th 2023: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
Christ the King (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 Robin Melendez, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from October 29th until November 4th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen and Jack Schauer from November 5th until November 11th.

ALL SAINTS DAY: November 1st is All Saints Day, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a vigil Mass in English on Tuesday, October 31st at 6:00 p.m. On November 1st we will have a Low Latin Mass at 7:30 a.m. and a High Latin Mass at 10:45 a.m.

ALL SOULS DAY: We will have an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 2nd and High Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the souls in purgatory by visiting a church and reciting an Our Father and the Nicene Creed.

FIRST FRIDAY: First Friday English Mass will be on November 3rd at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on November 4th. Altar server training and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

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

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Jor-El Godsey, President of Heartbeat International, whose core mission is the leadership supply line for the growing pregnancy help movement worldwide. 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. Contact at 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: We continue with 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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4816, \$200 was given for the Preservation Fund, and \$904 was donated for the World Missions. 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 7-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Oct 28:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Amy Juneau (by the Juneau Family)
Sun, Oct 29:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Julie Sabri (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Jenny Caparos (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Oct 30:	*8:30 a.m.	† Nancy Donellan (by the Donellans)
Tues, Oct 31:	*8:30 a.m.	† Finn Donellan (by the Donellans)
	6:00 p.m.	Pro Populo
Wed, Nov 1:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Adrienne Price (by the Donellans)
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Jonathan & Nicole Zaucha (by the Donellans)
Thur, Nov 2:	8:30 a.m.	† Faithful Departed
	6:30 p.m.	† Faithful Departed
Fri, Nov 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Morgan (by the Donellans)
	6:30 p.m.	Special Intention for Eli Donellan (by the Donellans)
Sat, Nov 4:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jackson Mackin (by the Donellans)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellans)
Sun, Nov 5:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Anthony Stanley (by the Donellans)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellans)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Henry Louis Koprucki, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Codie Smith Fikes, 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.	31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mal 1:14-2:2,8-10, 1Thes 2:7-9,13, Mt 23:1-12
7:30 a.m.	23 rd Sunday After Pentecost	Phil 3:17-4:3, Mt 9:18-26
4:00 p.m.	31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mal 1:14-2:2,8-10, 1Thes 2:7-9,13, Mt 23:1-12
10:45 a.m.	23 rd Sunday After Pentecost	Phil 3:17-4:3, Mt 9:18-26

The Second Precept: A Saving Obligation

Again, the second precept of the Church states that each Catholic that has obtained the use of reason, usually at age 7 or 8, has a duty to confess their sins, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation at least once each year. Because we all are sinners, because we all sin on a regular basis, and because our eternal salvation hinges on being reconciled to God, this is most serious business. The sacrament of baptism forgives what ever personal sins we have committed and the sin imputed to us through the sin of Adam and Eve, but it does not absolve sins committed after the baptism itself. Mortal sins committed after baptism must be forgiven through the sacrament of reconciliation. The Catechism makes the importance of confessing our sins and receiving absolution crystal clear: ‘Individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church’ (CCC 1497).

Just as baptism is the only ordinary means of entering into a relationship with God through the absolution of original sin and actual sins, of becoming a new creation as a son or daughter of God, of becoming a member of the Church, of becoming a tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, and of becoming configured to Christ, then it can equally be said that reconciliation or confession is the only ordinary means by which we can be return to our baptismal state of grace. After Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection He instituted both the sacraments of baptism and reconciliation: “*Then Jesus approached and said to them, ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age’*” (Mt 28:18-20) and “*Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained’*” (Jn 20:21-23). These verses represent some of the last words Jesus spoke on this earth before ascending into heaven, thus indicating their centrality and importance. This indicates that the Apostles were commissioned to baptize and to forgive sins. If it was the mission of the Apostles, it is also a mission of the Church. If it was the mission 2000 years ago, it remains the mission today.

Sadly, many parishes do not take the annual requirement to go to confession all that seriously. For example, some parishes allot a minute or two per parishioner per year for scheduled confessions. Some do much better, some much worse. A 2000 family parish offering 45 minutes of confession weekly with one priest along with Advent and Lent penance services with eight priests only offers about 45 seconds per parishioner per year for confessions. Clearly, this is no wheres near enough time, not even enough time for each parishioner to approach the sacrament of confession even once per year. Priests might counter with the fact that few people come to confession while the faithful might complain that it is futile trying to go to confession in many parishes in the first place. Year after year of offering only a pittance of time for confession naturally results in fewer people seeking God’s forgiveness. This is a scandal of epic proportions nationwide. Parishes that take the forgiveness of sins seriously generally off in excess of 15 minutes of confession time per parishioner per year.

Whether or not sufficient time is allotted for confession in a given parish, the duty of parishioners to confess at least once a year remains. The priest offering a paucity of time for confessions endangers his own soul and the souls of his people, but the faithful still bear responsibility in this matter. In a rural parish thirty or more miles from the nearest Catholic church makes this a difficult but not impossible endeavor. In profoundly isolated parishes, such as in Alaska, it might well be impossible to seek confession at another parish, but we cannot make such excuses in the greater Birmingham area. Even if a parish offers negligible scheduled opportunities for confession, the faithful do well to seek an appointment with their pastor to fulfill their obligation to confess their sins every year.

- Fr Booth