

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

November 4th/November 5th 2023: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)

23rd Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
Website: 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. 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 Eileen and Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from November 5th to November 11th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ronnie Mason from November 12th until November 18th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This 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

WOMEN'S ADVENT EVENT: There will be an event open to all women and young women to be held on Saturday, December 2nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m at Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood. The event, entitled ‘Advent Journey to Grace – Bringing Jesus to the World,’ will feature speaker, author, and founder of Women of Grace, Johnnette Williams. Prepare your heart this Advent for the coming of the Christ Child and learn more about your authentic femininity. The event is open to all junior high, high school, and adult ladies. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Frankline Fomukong. The event is free but please RSVP with your name, phone number, and number planning to attend to cwestbrook@womenofgrace.com

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.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7386 and \$615 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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, Nov 4:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jackson Mackin (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Nov 5:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Anthony Stanley (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Nov 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
Tues, Nov 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Zachary Archer (by the Donellans)
Wed, Nov 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Margaret Mary Hahn (by the Donellans)
Thur, Nov 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Pat & Mary Shields (by Maddie Duvall)
Fri, Nov 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fr Philip O’Neill (by Shane & Sophie Henderson)
Sat, Nov 11:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Felicity Henderson (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Nov 12:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Laura Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Michelle Smith (by Monica Duvall)

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 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.	32 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 6:12-16, 1Thes 4:13-18, Mt 25:1-13
7:30 a.m.	5 th Resumed Sunday After Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30
4:00 p.m.	32 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 6:12-16, 1Thes 4:13-18, Mt 25:1-13
10:45 a.m.	5 th Resumed Sunday After Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30

The Second Precept: A Necessary Obligation

Much has happened in the last hundred years or so. Ignoring the invention of the airplane, affordable cars, radios, televisions, atomic power, the internet, the cell phone, the smart phone, and a whole menagerie of gizmos and gadgets, we would also have to admit to changes in how people practice the faith. In the 1920s, about 80% of Catholics attended Mass every week. Much the same could be said of the protestants going to church on Sundays. We had long lines for confession and much shorter lines for Communion. Now we have 20-25% of Catholics attending Mass on Sunday, much shorter lines for confessions, and as a percentage of the attending congregation much longer lines for Communion. A casual observer might conclude that the Church has changed its teachings on Mass attendance, confession, and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. They might also conclude that Mass attendance, confessing sins, and receiving Communion have all become much less important than they were 100 years ago. But the Church has not changed her teaching in these regards.

The meager turnout of Catholics for Mass strongly suggests that either the Church or the people do not take Mass attendance seriously. The lack of many people going to confession suggests that either the Church or the people do not take being reconciled to God seriously. A much higher fraction of people receiving Communion suggests that either the Church or the people do not take Jesus' Real Presence seriously. Wait, does the fact that a greater fraction of Mass attendees receive Communion than was the case 100 years ago suggest that either the Church or the people are not taking the Eucharist seriously? This fact in isolation might suggest that the Church and the people are taking Holy Communion more seriously, but the reality of greatly reduced numbers of confessions contradicts this conclusion.

Why? To take the reception of Jesus – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – seriously would mean being properly disposed to receive Him sacramentally. Communion brings us into intimate union with Jesus and in spiritual union with all of the saints past, present, and future but only if we receive Jesus in a state of grace. Someone might really want to be united to Jesus in Holy Communion, but is this possible if we are not reconciled to the Father and if we do not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Can we be in union with the Son if we are not united also with the Father and the Holy Spirit? Can we be estranged from the Father and still have the Holy Spirit or can we devoutly receive Jesus while holding the Father in disdain? To be right with God means that we are reconciled to the Father, we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and we are properly disposed to receive Jesus under the appearance of Bread and Wine.

This is why the Church insists that we confess our sins and receive absolution so that we might be right with God and worthily receive the Eucharist. This is why the second precept of the Church is to confess our sins at least once a year. This precept goes way beyond the worthy reception of Holy Communion: our salvation depends upon being in a state of grace when we pass from this world. If we fail to frequent the sacrament of confession, we put our souls at risk, and if we receive Jesus in the Eucharist while in a state of mortal sin, we do ourselves absolutely no favor. In fact we commit the sin of sacrilege. Catechism paragraph 2120 teaches 'Sacrilege consists in profaning or treating unworthily the sacraments and other liturgical actions, as well as persons, things, or places consecrated to God. Sacrilege is a grave sin especially when committed against the Eucharist, for in this sacrament the true Body of Christ is made substantially present for us.' Sadly, many Catholics routinely receive Jesus sacrilegiously without a second thought because we today do not take either confession or the Holy Eucharist seriously.

Thankfully, God is merciful and expresses that mercy through sacramental confession. No sin is too serious or committed so many times to be beyond His mercy. But we must remember that '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).

- Fr Booth