

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**November 18th/November 19th 2023: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
6th Resumed Sunday After Epiphany (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 Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from November 19th to November 25th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Hazel Melendez from November 26th until December 2nd.

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.

THANKSGIVING: For Thanksgiving, the 8:30 Mass (Latin) will be held in the church.

FIRST SUNDAY: For the first Sunday of December, there will be a potluck brunch following the 9:00 a.m. Mass in lieu of the usual coffee and donuts.

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

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local communality. Please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached by Sunday, December 17th.

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 \$10,162 and \$560 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.

ADDITIONAL ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE: Jeremy Noblitt, Ed & Ellen Daniel, Beverly and Collins Grisham, Margaret & Jack Bohm, Ed & Mary Ryan, Margaret & Johnny Ryan, Jimmy & Anne Ryan, Mike Ryan, John Ryan, Neal Tallie.

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

Sat, Nov 18: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for Alex Ruiz (by the Duvall Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Sebastian Yalli (by Matthew Still)

Sun, Nov 19: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Debbie Smith (by Matthew Still)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Jennifer Holden (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)

Mon, Nov 20: *8:30 a.m. † Harry Lee (Helen Brandley)

Tues, Nov 21: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Donellan Family (by the Hahns)

Wed, Nov 22: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mr. Pohorelsky (by the Hahns)

Thur, Nov 23: 8:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin E, Kelly)

Fri, Nov 24: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Charles Rumore, Sr. (by the Hahn Family)

Sat, Nov 25: 4:00 p.m. † Marietta Sunga Guevara (by the Hahn Family)

Sun, Nov 26: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Andrew Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Rick DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially John Davis, Alexandra Taylor, 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, 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. Christ the King Eze 34:11-12,15-17, 1Cor 15:20-26,28, Mt 25:31-46
7:30 a.m. 24th Sunday After Pentecost Col 1:9-14, Mt 24:15-35
4:00 p.m. Christ the King Eze 34:11-12,15-17, 1Cor 15:20-26,28, Mt 25:31-46
10:45 a.m. 24th Sunday After Pentecost Col 1:9-14, Mt 24:15-35

Confessions Hindered by Priests

To a large degree the great drop in the number of people going to confession can be laid at the feet of priests. Not entirely, but priests share much of the blame. This is so because of the stingy offering of confession time but also because some priests have taught falsehoods about the forgiveness of sins. The first falsehood is that it is nearly impossible to commit a mortal sin. While it is true that a vast majority of sins committed by the average adult are venial – venial because they are not grave matter, or they were not done with full consent of the will, or done with incomplete knowledge – that hardly means that the average adult does not commit mortal sins. Most people can say that they are not Adolf Hitler, a murderer, a bank robber, or an adulterer. True, but we are currently seeing people embrace antisemitism and the desire for extermination of the Jews, we see people willfully embrace hatred, we see people coveting other's possessions, and we see people lustfully objectifying others or allowing themselves to be objectified, all of which are objectively mortal sins. Just because we don't act on hatred or lust does not mean we are innocent. Jesus is quite clear about this in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:21-39). Why some priests teach that it is almost impossible to commit a mortal sin is very difficult to understand since they are placing souls in jeopardy.

Some priests have also taught that we do not need to go to confession so long as we are anointed on our deathbed. There is some truth to this, but there are conditions on how the anointing of the sick forgives sins. First of all, this is a sacrament of the living, meaning that it is meant to be received in a state of grace. Someone in a state of grace does not need to confess their sins. But if the anointing of the sick is received by someone in a state of mortal sin, it forgives those sins only if the recipient intended to go to confession but was unable to do so. If there is no intention to confess or if opportunities to confess have been squandered then it is quite likely that anointing will be ineffective in absolving mortal sins. For example, if a man willfully commits adultery but regrets what he did and plans on going to confession in the upcoming weekend, he would be forgiven that sin if he is anointed but dies in the meantime. If he has no intention to confess and a significant amount of times before he is anointed while dying, it is likely that he will not be forgiven. Why some priests teach that anointing substitutes for confession is very difficult to understand since they are placing souls in jeopardy.

A third way that priests have taught falsehoods regarding the sacrament of confession is encouraging people to confess only a few sins instead of all of the sins they can remember since their last confession. It is one thing to honestly forget a sin, but quite another thing to deliberately withhold sins instead of confessing them. We are called to examine our consciences and confess all of the serious sins we recall, not just a token sin or two. Why some priests teach that only a subset of sins needs to be confessed is very difficult to understand since they are placing souls in jeopardy.

Some priests, even in our own diocese, have chosen to give general absolution instead of hearing individual confessions. General absolution, where the priest absolves the sins of several or many people without hearing their individual confessions, can only be done in situations where the danger of death is probable and it would be impossible to hear everyone's confession. Examples include men going into battle, a plane that is going to crash, or a ship that is sinking. If the people survive whatever calamity was looming over them, they would be required to confess their sins irrespectively of having received general absolution. If a priest grants general absolution to a company of soldiers, perhaps 150-200 men, those who died would be absolved but the survivors would be obliged to go to individual confession. Why some priests grant general absolution when there is no mortal danger present is very difficult to understand since they are placing souls in jeopardy.

Finally, some priests choose to tell people that some sins are not sins. Occasionally the penitent is mistaken, but the priest has no right or authority to say that blasphemy, lust, greed, fornication, self abuse, slander, gossip, etc. are not sins. Why some priests teach that sin is not sin is very difficult to understand since they are placing souls in jeopardy.

- Fr Booth