

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 3rd/February 4th 2024: Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Sexagesima Sunday (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 Edward Von Hagel, Jr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 28th until February 3rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Sr. from February 4th until February 10th.

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

FIRST COMMUNION: We will have our First Communion on March 10th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be announced.

CONFIRMATION: We are planning on having Confirmation later this year at a date that is to be determined. The bishop has offered to confirm using the new rite in Latin followed by a High Latin Mass where he will sit in choir.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2023 have been mailed. If you contributed \$250 or more you should receive your statement soon.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2024: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$4327 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$765. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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, Feb 3:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Martire Family (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Javier & Anisa Sanchez (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Feb 4:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jacob & Elisa Lewinski (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Mike & Wendy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Feb 5:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Charlie & Allison Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Feb 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John-Anthony and Mary Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Feb 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Thom Price (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Feb 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Ryan & Clarisa Gaudet (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Feb 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Peter Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Feb 10:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for MeriLyn Jackson (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Feb 11:	7:30 a.m.	† Dr. D. Bonner (by Helen Brandley)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Mrs. LD Davis and † Mr. LD Davis (by the Gagnon Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Diane Norton, William Munch, Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, 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, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahan, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, 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, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m.	Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Lev 13:1-2,44-46, 1Cor 10:31-11:1, Mk 1:40-45
7:30 a.m.	Quinquagesima Sunday	1Cor 13:1-13, Lk 18:31-43
9:00 a.m.	Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Lev 13:1-2,44-46, 1Cor 10:31-11:1, Mk 1:40-45
10:45 a.m.	Quinquagesima Sunday	1Cor 13:1-13, Lk 18:31-43

Being Sons and Daughters of God

The continuing rise of unbelief is troubling. First and foremost, it is troubling from the standpoint of how many souls are likely to be lost. Ever since Jesus walked among us there have been disciples that failed to attain heaven. Judas Iscariot certainly comes to mind. And Jesus warned us that there would be others, many of whom will be surprises. It will be a surprise to some who think they are right with the Lord but aren't and perhaps a surprise to their neighbors who might have regarded them as saintly shoo-ins. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus warns his followers about this, saying "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'*" (Mt 7:21-23). In other words, the lack of belief can be reduced to either total unbelief or to insufficient belief, a lukewarm faith that is not accompanied by doing our heavenly Father's will. Sadly it is safe to say that total unbelief and lukewarm faith are rising year after year.

Secondly, lukewarm belief is dangerous not only to the individual believer but to those around him. It is easy to imagine that lukewarmness can be passed on to others through bad example and it seems unlikely that the natural tendency will be for lukewarmness to spawn deeper faith in others. In like manner lukewarm faith can and often does breed total unbelief in others. Widespread unbelief can be quite dangerous to whole societies, not just because the moral compass is often suppressed or warped, but because a new 'faith' will often supplant faith in God. Man seems preprogrammed to believe, and a vacuum of true faith will be filled with sort of other 'faith.'

Secular pseudo-religions such as nazism, communism, socialism, anarchism, and a whole bunch of other '-isms' come with their own objects of faith, doctrines, orthodoxy of thought, and provide an identity to adherents while imposing identities on those outside of the ideology. Great evils can and often do get foisted on the outsiders, as the events of the 20th century prove beyond a doubt. The greater the number of people rejecting God and the greater then number whose faith is lukewarm, the more likely that man's inhumanity to man will be on full display.

However, we are now at a point where the number of people who reject God but embrace an '-ism' need not be large to have an enormously disproportionate impact on a society. While all '-isms' start small – how many nazis were there in 1920, how many bolsheviks were there in 1900? – they can grow enormously in number and power. However, destructive '-isms' today can wreak great havoc while remaining small in number. Traditional media, social media, widespread cowardice, wanting to get along, fear, and common lukewarmness greatly amplify the influence of even a small number of men pushing a godless agenda. For example, it has been estimated that as few as 1000 radical adherents of so-called transgender ideology, along with a bevy of useful idiots, have managed to promote their vile lies through coercion and reputation violence (e.g., canceling, ostracizing, name calling, slandering, threats, deplatforming, cyberbullying, and so forth) so as to make the idea that boys and girls can, nay ought to be made into girls and boys. The media, the medical profession, politicians, and the aforementioned useful idiots, comply out of cowardice or for wanting to not be 'antiscience' even though there is no science to support the claims of these radicals. Most people know deep down that boys are boys and girls are girls. There is no spectrum of genders but there are spectrums of what is authentically boyish and what is girlish. A tomboy does not a boy make.

One of the consequences of unbelief, and to a lesser degree lukewarmness, is a loss of identity. Does a family deeply rooted in the Gospel fall for the idea that an ideology or other '-ism' truly provides us with a solid identity? Does a young man or a young lady with an active living faith really conclude that God put them in the wrong body? How godless does someone have to be to mutilate – irreversibly – children who are confused and have been led astray?

- Fr Booth