

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 20<sup>th</sup>/July 21<sup>st</sup> 2024: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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

E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)  
Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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 in the vestibule at the back of the church.

**IN MEMORIAM:** For Mary P. Hastings, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eugene Mason from July 28<sup>th</sup> until August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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.

**FATHER JAMES E. COYLE MEMORIAL MASS:** Let us remember a holy priest killed in the line of duty. All are invited to a memorial Mass to be offered on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St Paul. This year the celebrant of the Mass will be Bishop Steven Raica, who will be joined by various priests from the diocese. The memorial Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Father Coyle.

**LAY DOMINICANS:** Adult men and women who have been Catholics for at least two years are invited to learn about the Dominican Laity and see if this is where God may be calling you. The pillars of Lay Dominican life center around prayer, study, apostolate (sharing our faith with others in ways appropriate to the laity), and community (monthly meetings on Sunday afternoons in Birmingham). As lay members of the Dominican Order, we are drawn together by the love of St. Dominic, and invite you to consider joining us! To learn more, contact Pam Leverett, chapter president, at pcleverett\_66@outlook.com.

**MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS** for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are 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, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, and Matthew Gagnon.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$7228, the collection from the previous week was \$8427, and \$540 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, July 20:	9:15 a.m.	Special intention for Beth Mathews (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Jonah Renda (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, July 21:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for the Meeker Family (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, July 22	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Pinter Family (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, July 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Kay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, July 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, July 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Meeker Family (by Mary Margaret & Michael Hill)
Fri, July 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Pinter Family (by Mary Margaret & Michael Hill)
Sat, July 27:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Mr. & Mrs Cedric Fernandes and Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, July 28:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Beth Mathews (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Eddie & Beth Mathews (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, 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.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	2Kgs 4:42-44, Eph 4:1-6, Jn 6:1-15
7:30 a.m.	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 12:2-11, Lk 18:9-14
9:00 a.m.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	2Kgs 4:42-44, Eph 4:1-6, Jn 6:1-15
10:45 a.m.	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 12:2-11, Lk 18:9-14

## *Bespoke Belief?*

The more people become estranged from the word of God, the more what they believe and place their hopes on ceases to be the Gospel. We even have the promotion of a Gospel for this group or that group, a Gospel tailored for one demographic or another. There is some legitimacy to tailoring a Bible for some, for example for children, by simplifying language, including illustrations, perhaps focusing on the narrative parts of the Bible that tell stories from salvation history, and so forth. For instance, God parting the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross need not include the demise of the men of the Egyptian army. That God looked out for the Chosen People and saved them are the key age appropriate truths in this episode. Likewise, the abominable practices of the peoples that occupied the Promised Land before the Jews do not need to be mentioned to tender ears. That God kept His promise to the Israelites is the primary message of what happened after their forty years of wandering in the desert. But if Bibles are being edited, changed, twisted, or explained away so that the truth is falsified for the sake of one group of people or for an agenda, then to one degree or another it ceases to be the Word of God and a reliable source of moral and theological truth.

There have been constant efforts in the last hundred years or so to redefine the clear teachings of the Scriptures. For example, the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah has become a mere violation of hospitality, not the obvious sin mentioned in the Bible. But if a lack of hospitality towards Lot's two visitors, the angels that came to tell Lot to leave Sodom, then one is left to wonder how the entire planet is not already a smoldering cinder for all of the inhospitality that has occurred over the millennia. Shouldn't God have rendered Bethlehem a barren waste for having turned Joseph and Mary away when she was obviously soon to give birth, soon to give birth to the Son of God, the Messiah? What about all of the inhospitality that was shown to Jesus during His three-year ministry?

The other passages of the Bible – both in the Old and New Testaments – that clearly condemn the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah have suffered revisionism as well. I heard recently someone discounting the Bible's teaching in this regard because they claimed these passages were supposedly the basis of bans on interracial marriage. The implication here is that those verses no longer apply today even though they have zero to do with marriage or skin color.

What is at work here in this specific instance and in a more broad context is that something beyond the teachings of the Bible has become the basis of moral and spiritual truth for many people. That something, that mistakenly perceived basis and touchstone of truth, is now being used to judge and parse the Bible into acceptable and unacceptable teachings. God's Word is now subject to man's thoughts, God's wisdom is now subject to man's folly, God's authority has been usurped by mankind's whim. This becomes all the easier when Scripture scholars regard the Bible as mere literature, the product of men, not the product of men inspired by the Holy Spirit.

It is one thing to reject God's wisdom and authority. He gave us free will to accept the truth or to embrace lies. We see this play out in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve believe satan's lies over the truth God proclaimed. Later, people accepted Jesus or rejected Him. Some changed their minds, later rejecting Him or accepting Him. That is free will in action, free will to choose God aided by grace, or to reject Him apart from grace. Again, it is one thing to reject God's wisdom and authority, but it is quite another thing to pervert and twist His teachings. Jesus makes this point as follows: "*Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must come, but woe to the one through whom they come!*" (Mt 18:6-7).

But what is that something, that mistakenly perceived basis and touchstone of truth, that people are embracing in lieu of the Gospel? The fact of the matter is that there are any number of things that become the basis of our truth when God's word is rejected, neglected, or perverted. Nevertheless, it can be boiled down to one simple thing: hubris.

- Fr Booth