

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**August 10th/August 11th 2024: 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
12th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



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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 in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Beverly Grisham, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 11th to August 17th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Julia V. Bryant from August 18th until August 24th.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Thursday, August 15th is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will have a Mass in English on Wednesday, August 14th at 6:00 p.m. On Thursday, August 15th there will be a Low Latin Mass at 8:30 a.m. and High Latin Mass at 10:45 a.m.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, August 17th. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS is Christ-centered scouting for girls 5-18 years old. The mission of AHG is to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. Troop AL1478 will host a ‘Come and See’ event for all interested girls and their families on Wednesday, August 21st at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4DAAA828ABFA7-50547105-ahgcome>

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 pceleverett_66@outlook.com.

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.

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$9600, \$50 was given for the Preservation Fund, and \$1652 was given for the St John Vianney Seminarian Education Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about an 8-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Aug 10: 4:00 p.m. † Marisa Wilson (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Aug 11: 7:30 a.m. † Rose Wolfe (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Dr. & Mrs. Michael Irwin (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Aug 12 *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Fr Alan Mackey (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Aug 13: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Jonathan Zaucha (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Aug 14: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Penney (by the Hahn Family)
6:00 p.m. Special intention for Mrs. Fernandes (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Aug 15: 8:30 a.m. Special intention for Mrs. Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
6:30 p.m. Special intention for Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Fernandes (by the Hahn Family)
Fri, Aug 16: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Sophie Sabri (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Aug 17: 9:15 a.m. Special intention for Sr Janet Marie Flemming, OSB (by the Hahn Family)
4:00 p.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Aug 18: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Mary Wiseman (by the Juneaus)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Mr. Charles Frahey (by Ed & Susan Fay)

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. 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Prov 9:1-6, Eph 5:15-20, Jn 6:51-58
7:30 a.m. 13 th Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 3:16-22, Lk 17:11-19
9:00 a.m. 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Prov 9:1-6, Eph 5:15-20, Jn 6:51-58
10:45 a.m. 13 th Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 3:16-22, Lk 17:11-19

Objective Morality

Pontius Pilate interrogates Jesus prior to sending Him to the cross. Pilate asks a series of questions attempting to establish just who Jesus is. He asks if Jesus is a king and Jesus says “*For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice*” and Pilate responds “*What is truth?*” (Jn 18:37, 38): as fair a question today as it was 2000 years ago. In fact, it is more than a fair question. It is an absolutely fundamental question for which modern society has any number of answers. Precious few answers to the question of what is truth can really be trusted to be truth despite the fact that many people insist they know that truth is this or truth is that. We even have a sense that there is such a thing as a personal truth, that truth varies from individual to individual. There used to be a name for such personal, individual truths: opinions.

Opinions may or may not correspond to the truth, but we can hardly say that opinions generally are truth or even a species of truth. One man’s opinion might be that Jesus never existed, another man might think that Jesus existed but was not the Messiah, and yet another man might think that Jesus appeared to exist as a man but was not flesh-and-bones, an apparition of some sort. All of these opinions are false. They all contradict one another to the point that if one were the truth, the others would have to be utterly false. Then there is the matter of how opinions are formed. They may be based on the preponderance of evidence, on a smattering of evidence, on one single fact in isolation, on falsehoods perceived as facts, on wishful thinking, or on nothing at all. Even if an opinion is based on the preponderance of evidence, an unknown fact or one otherwise excluded from consideration might make that seemingly well supported opinion null and void. This is why we convict criminals, or at least we are supposed to convict them, beyond a shadow of doubt. The totality of evidence ought to point to the criminal’s guilt. One fact to the contrary ought to acquit the accused.

In any case, the truth remains objective and immutable. Culture, public opinion, personal opinion, emotion, and personal experience are all prone to being subjective and changing. Indeed, the perception of truth changes but the truth does not change. For example, it was understandably perceived that the sun orbited the earth until evidence demonstrated otherwise. The truth always has been that the earth orbits the sun. It is not like the sun moved around the earth until Copernicus suggested the opposite in 1532, nor did the sun move around the earth until 1851 when Leon Foucault demonstrated that the earth rotates as it orbits the sun instead of the whole universe orbiting around the earth, providing the first direct proof of the sun-centered solar system. Even the idea of a solar system, the idea that the sun is not the center of the universe but one of many stars, was not even proposed until the early 1700s. In other words, the truth about the solar system always existed but was not always perceived. It was objectively stable but subjectively evolving.

Moral truths also always exist objectively and they may or may not be understood subjectively. Cannibalism is largely a thing of the past but we can’t say the same thing for slavery or child sacrifice. All three are objectively and intrinsically evil, but slavery and child sacrifice find a welcome home today because culture, public opinion, personal opinion, emotion, and/or personal experience have supplanted objective truth. Likewise, while science generally progresses in the direction of greater understanding and appreciation of the objective realities of the created world, we cannot say the same for moral progress. What some people regard as moral progress can hardly be regarded as such. In many cases it resembles a return to thoroughly pagan practices, or even behaviors that would make a Viking, Visigoth, or Mongol blush with shame.

We need an objective and timeless source for moral truth that is independent from culture, public opinion, personal opinion, emotion, and personal experience. Given our fallen nature, that source of morality must not be subject to human whim and it must be timeless: in truth, it must be divine. Yes, we have the natural law written on our hearts by God, but mankind is quite capable of ignoring what is written on our hearts. Thus, we need to listen and belong to Jesus. - Fr Booth