

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**August 17th/August 18th 2024: 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
13th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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**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 in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Julia V. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 18th to August 24th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Helen Von Hagel from August 25th until August 31st.

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.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS: 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 pcleverett_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 \$13,952 and \$875 was given for the Preservation 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 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)
Mon, Aug 19 *8:30 a.m. Private Intention
Tue, Aug 20: *8:30 a.m. Private Intention
Wed, Aug 21: *8:30 a.m. † Mrs. Bobbie Delhomme (by Ed & Susan Fay)
Thur, Aug 22: *8:30 a.m. † J.C. Cooper, Jr. (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Aug 23: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Michael & Sandra Lehmann (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Aug 24: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Aug 25: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Max & Lena Cook (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Bill Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Justin Meadows, 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. 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Josh 24:1-2,15-17,18, Eph 5:21-32, Jn 6:60-69
7:30 a.m. 14th Sunday After Pentecost Gal 5:16-24, Mt 6:24-33
9:00 a.m. 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Josh 24:1-2,15-17,18, Eph 5:21-32, Jn 6:60-69
10:45 a.m. 14th Sunday After Pentecost Gal 5:16-24, Mt 6:24-33

Darkened, Senseless Minds

No matter how we look at it, moral truths must be unchanging, objective, and independent of human institutions and human perfidiousness. Indeed, we have access – all of us – to the law written on our hearts, what is often called the natural law. St Paul describes man’s ability to acknowledge but reject the moral law written on the human heart: “*For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made. As a result, they have no excuse; for although they knew God they did not accord him glory as God or give him thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds were darkened*” (Rom 1:19-21). As a result, “*They are filled with every form of wickedness, evil, greed, and malice; full of envy, murder, rivalry, treachery, and spite. They are gossips and scandalmongers and they hate God. They are insolent, haughty, boastful, ingenious in their wickedness, and rebellious toward their parents. They are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know the just decree of God that all who practice such things deserve death, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them*” (Rom 1:29-32).

It ought to be clear that the minds of many people are indeed darkened and their reasoning is deeply flawed when it comes to morality. Many will claim ignorance, but the above verses from Romans Chapter 1 say they have no excuse. St Paul goes on to say “*For when the Gentiles who do not have the law [of Moses] by nature observe the prescriptions of the law, they are a law for themselves even though they do not have the law. They show that the demands of the law are written in their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even defend them on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people’s hidden works through Christ Jesus*” (Rom 2:14-16). Anybody who is honest and sane will admit that murder, adultery, theft, deceit, lust, and greed are evil, that they are behaviors few will openly endorse, especially when they are on the victim side of the equation. The same applies for the respect due our parents. This covers seven of the Ten Commandments, the other three commandments, those that pertain to God Himself, are not foreign or opposed to those moral precepts that govern our relations with one another. Indeed, the Golden Rule – “*Do to others whatever you would have them do to you*” (Mt 7:12) – is accepted in a nearly universal fashion across the centuries and by a spectrum of religions and beliefs. This is sure and certain evidence that there is a natural law written on the human heart.

That the Golden Rule or the obviously true tenants of the Ten Commandments are more or less accepted everywhere over the centuries proves that morality is objective, timeless, and universal in nature. One would therefore think that we ought to be advancing in morality as time passes, that our culture ought to be more moral now than it was 100 years ago. We should expect that a number of sins would be slowly eradicated over time while new sins would not sprout up in the process. For many people this does happen in their own lives, they become more moral as they mature, putting behind them bad habits and youthful indiscretions. Yet some people become more and more wicked over time, embracing greed, anger, hatred, rivalry, treachery, debauchery, and so on. They don’t mature morally like many others do. Likewise, our culture does not seem to have the same capacity to mature morally as we do as individuals. American culture has definitely progressed in wickedness and perversion over the last few decades and that trend seems to be accelerating.

Why? The obvious reason is the growing level of unbelief or halfhearted faith. False gospels of cheap grace and presumption are becoming more common, we see more people seeing heaven as a birthright, we see more and more people convinced that their loved ones infallibly attain heaven when they pass from this world, and that many believe that salvation is by faith alone apart from morality. When faith is an afterthought, when the Gospel is distorted or rejected, that opens the floodgates wide for people to become “*vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds darkened.*” - Fr Booth