

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 24th/August 25th 2024: 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
14th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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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 Helen Von Hagel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 25th to August 31st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jack Schauer from September 1st until September 7th.

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

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 \$7644 and \$350 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 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)
Mon, Aug 26 *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Janay Deering (by the Donellan Family)
Tue, Aug 27: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Wendy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Aug 28: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Fr Alan Mackey (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Aug 29: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for John Morgan (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Aug 30: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Birmingham Fraternus Chapter (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Aug 31: 4:00 p.m. † Sheila Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Sept 1: 7:30 a.m. † Sheila Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Fr Den Irwin (by the Hahn 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, Deb Rankin, 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. 22nd Sunday of Ord Time Dt 4:1-2,6-8, Jas 1:17-18,21-22,27, Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
7:30 a.m. 15th Sunday After Pentecost Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16
9:00 a.m. 22nd Sunday of Ord Time Dt 4:1-2,6-8, Jas 1:17-18,21-22,27, Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
10:45 a.m. 15th Sunday After Pentecost Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16

Inverted Values

It should hardly be a question that in recent decades that many people “*became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds were darkened*” (Rom 1:21). Proof of this is everywhere. In some cities, shoplifting and theft have become acceptable behaviors so much so that the police cannot or will not attempt to arrest the thieves or interfere with thefts in-progress. It is thought by some that the thieves have a right to other people’s property. Free speech is in jeopardy for some, while slander against some is encouraged, and it seems that some beliefs will soon be criminalized. We have the First Amendment, but for how long? If we head down the same path as the British, it won’t be for terribly much longer. For example, people have been sent to prison for mocking one religion while it is considered a civic duty to utterly disrespect Christianity in the most foul and offensive ways (e.g., the Paris Olympics). One British man was arrested for calling a police horse gay, another for saying scientology is a cult, and yet another for displaying verses from the Bible on a television screen. People have ended up in jail for ridiculing a dead military veteran on twitter, for sarcasm being mistaken for threats, and for shouting at a police dog. It is acceptable in Britain, and here, to proclaim by written words, by speech, and on-line genocidal threats against Jews. You can call for the extermination of a whole people but can’t yell at a dog or insult a horse? Really? And the United Nations just ruled on Friday that the British have not been punishing free speech enough.

It is clear that laws are being twisted to allow and promote evil in some cases while being twisted in the opposite direction to persecute minor offenses or even non-offenses as serious crimes. This all seems agenda driven for the moment, but it will soon become either so random and capricious as to make all people afraid of those in power or so focused on some segment of society as to be a means of open persecution. This has, is, and will continue to be done in the name of justice, in the name of equality, in the name of equity, in the name of democracy, in the name of opposing white supremacy, ultimately in the name of all that is ‘good and holy.’ In reality, it is injustice in the name of justice, inequality in the name of equality, discrimination in the name of equity, totalitarianism in the name of democracy, racism in the name of opposing racism, and wickedness and the demonic in the name of the good and the holy. This all fits into the pattern described by St Paul in the first chapter of Romans, even to the point that people have become “*ingenious in their wickedness*” because of their hatred for God, and even though “*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 1:30,32).

Perhaps the worst and most dangerous form of this inversion of values lies in the perversion of what it means to love. Indeed, the moral law is an expression of love for God and love for neighbor. Love chooses what is best for the other, what is best for God and what is best for those around us. How can we do what is best for God since He has no need for anything we do? While it is true that God is not in need of our love, He wants it from us just the way a human father wants the love of a son or daughter. When the child excels, it is pleasing to the father. When we excel as sons and daughters of God, this too is pleasing to Him. This is done by living as we ought, by actually living as if we are made in the image and likeness of God, that what we do reflects the goodness and holiness of our Creator. The love spoken of in the New Testament is not an emotional love even though emotion might accompany our love for God and neighbor. Love is not a passion (fear, attraction, joy, desire) nor an affinity (brotherhood, friendship) nor a neediness (childishness, immaturity) for the other. No, Biblical love is a deliberate choice of that which is good and a deliberate rejection of evil.

Sadly, many have minds senseless and darkened enough to endorse evil as if it is good. This is true even with devout believers, even with clergy. Not a few protestant denominations have chosen to accept clear evils as if they were ordained by God, all in the name of ‘love.’ Not a few Catholic priests have done so of their own accord, again mistaking emotions and perverted passions as the love ordained by God. If our values are backwards or corrupted, our love will be false indeed. - Fr Booth