

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 14th/September 15th 2024: 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
17th Sunday After Pentecost (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 in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Neal Tallie, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September 15th to September 21st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from September 22nd until September 28th.

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.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, September 21st. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at 9:15 a.m.

PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE ON RETREAT: Our diocesan priests (those who are not in a religious order) will be on retreat from Monday, September 30th through Friday, October 4th. There will be no Masses at Blessed Sacrament that week, including First Friday.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Pledge Sunday for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal campaign for 2025 is on September 29th. You should receive a Pledge Card in the mail soon, but you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$28,000.

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 \$6686 and \$1080 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, Sept 14: 4:00 p.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Sept 15: 7:30 a.m. † David Waligora (by Mary & Betty Mason)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Mike Smith (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Mon, Sept 16 *8:30 a.m. † Zelf Williamson (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Tues, Sept 17: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Angie Donellan (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Wed, Sept 18: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Sandy Sublett (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Thur, Sept 19: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Eli Donellan (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Fri, Sept 20: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Jim & Key Deering (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Sat, Sept 21: 9:15 a.m. Special intention for Nicole Zaucha (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
4:00 p.m. Special intention for Lena Cook (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
Sun, Sept 22: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Jeff & Catherine Hahn (by Scott & Lori Donellan)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Margaret Hahn (by Scott & Lori Donellan)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Madeline Sampedro, George Sampedro, 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. 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Wis 2:12,17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mk 9:30-37
7:30 a.m. 18th Sunday After Pentecost 1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8
9:00 a.m. 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Wis 2:12,17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mk 9:30-37
10:45 a.m. 18th Sunday After Pentecost 1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8

Word Games

The refrain that love-is-love is simply linguistic and logical hogwash. English is a language with many words: according to some estimates, English has the largest number of words, the richest vocabulary of any language. Yet we have but one word for love, which means that love can mean just about anything. Love, at least in English, is utterly imprecise. Advertisers have compounded this problem by claiming that we will love a product, a claim they can make without challenge from truth in advertising laws. For example, a box of crackers might show what the crackers look like, but they often have to have an asterisk near the image saying that the product has been enlarged to show its texture as if people really expect the crackers in the package to measure three inches across. Sooner or later they will have to put another note explaining that some of the crackers in the box might be broken. But they can say that we will love the cracker, an absurd but allowable claim.

Given that the word love can mean affection, friendship, affinity, attraction, preference, tenderness, warmth, endearment, compassion, adoration, worship, appreciation, delight, desire, appetite, concern, kindness, liking, passion, infatuation, lust, philanthropy, benevolence, partiality, and so on, then to say love-is-love implies that lust is tenderness or affinity is philanthropy. The spectrum of meanings makes equating love with love utterly meaningless. But love-is-love is bandied about as if it were a mathematical equation, such as eight times eight is sixty-four. Given the spectrum of meaning for the English word love, such an equation is like saying eight times eight is dental floss.

Modern society has been playing such word games for decades. Many culture war issues are fought by bending words or making false equations. The refrain of my-body-my-choice, invoking personal autonomy as a justification for abortion, fails to acknowledge that the unborn baby is not part of the mother's body. Likewise, the word right, as in those things to which we are entitled, has come to mean license, as in indulgence or lack of responsibility, as in doing what we feel like doing. I have a right to partake of illegal drugs. No, but many people think this way. I have a right to drive a car. No, driving is not a right but a privilege regulated by the government. The word games being played often take manmade 'rights' and equate them with God-given rights while at the same time denying God-given rights or placing God-given rights under human authority. A good example of this was the mandatory shutdowns of churches during the pandemic. Worship is a God-given right and our solemn duty, but governments greatly overstepped their purview by banning the worship of God, supposedly for the 'common good.' For some reason the mantra of my-body-my-choice did not extend to the experimental vaccines that were mandated for employment, travel, and school attendance.

We ought to be sensitive to protecting our rights and as Christians we ought to be focussed on love, but the modern distortion of words has made it seem like opposing abortion is un-American and immoral, that opposing immoral behavior and immoral marriage is unloving. That is what my-body-my-choice and love-is-love are designed to do. They are designed to undermine Christian moral values and confuse us into thinking that God ordains the unjust taking of human life and immoral unions. These word games imply that we are the bad guys for opposing immorality.

So, if people bend and redefine words to make us villains, it should not be surprising at all that God will be blamed for human evils. Indeed, God made the universe and declared it as good, but having created man, He declared it to be very good (Gen 1:25,31). But it was through the sin of Adam and Eve, with Satan's help, that evil enters creation. We still live in a fallen world with a fallen human nature, the fallenness of which is mankind's doing, not God's. Yet we have people today saying that God made me this way, therefore expressing my desires and cravings is legitimate. Nope, nope, nope, nope. Cain did not and could not say that God made him that way so he was justified in killing Abel. King David could not say to God that he either raped or committed adultery with Bathsheba because God made him that way. We cannot blame God for our behavior. Adam and Eve tried to blame God when they ate the forbidden fruit. It did not work for them. It won't work for us.

- Fr Booth