

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*February 15th/February 16th 2025: 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Septuagesima Sunday (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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: Joel Levenberg, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 16th to February 22nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Howard Von Hagel from February 23rd until March 1st.

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.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2025: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS for 2024 have been mailed out.

FIRST COMMUNION: We have scheduled our First Communion on March 30th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be announced.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$28,035 and thus exceeding our goal.

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, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7396 and \$710 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, Feb 15: 9:15 a.m. Special intention for the Ed & Susan Fey Family (by the Hall Family)
4:00 p.m. † Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Feb 16: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for the Martire Family (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Clay Wingard (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Feb 17 *8:30 a.m. † Daniel Thomas Flavin (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Feb 18: *8:30 a.m. † Elizabeth Herring (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Feb 19: *8:30 a.m. † Len Marino, Sr. (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Feb 20: *8:30 a.m. † Normand Conrad Gagnon (by the Hahn Family)
Fri, Feb 21: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Deacon Lee Robinson (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Feb 22: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Mike & Wendy Donellan (by Mary Jimenez)
Sun, Feb 23: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Nancy Worley (by Brian Burgess)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Hannah Ferino (by the Ferino Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Grace Hill, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Phillip McCarty, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, 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. 7th Sunday of Ord. Time 1Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23, 1Cor 15:45-49, Lk 6:27-38
7:30 a.m. Sexagesima Sunday 2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15
9:00 a.m. 7th Sunday of Ord. Time 1Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23, 1Cor 15:45-49, Lk 6:27-38
10:45 a.m. Sexagesima Sunday 2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15

Secrecy and Truth

It is absolutely essential that a nation keeps some things secret. The capabilities of weapon systems used by the armed forces would be an obvious example. Sometimes these performance figures are kept secret to hide the technologies used, sometimes their offensive and defensive characteristics remain secret for obvious reasons, sometimes the mission of a particular system is obscured, and sometimes the very existence of a weapon or defensive capability is cloaked in utter secrecy. For example, the X-37, an unmanned spacecraft, has been in operation by the military for 15 years but its purpose remains veiled in secrecy. The very existence of our ability to break the Japanese and German encryption codes was one of the most closely guarded secrets of the Second World War.

So, governments have legitimate needs for secrecy. Corporations have trade secrets and other information that is not made public for the sake of competitiveness. We also have a personal need for secrecy. The Church has identified three categories of legitimate secrets, namely natural secrets, professional or entrusted secrets, and committed secrets.

Natural secrets are those facts that ought to be withheld for the sake of someone else. If we happen to know someone's embarrassing information, we have a general duty to withhold it. Revealing such information generally falls into the sins of detraction, gossip, or both. Nevertheless, we might have a duty to reveal natural secrets to someone who truly has a need to know, such as telling parents of their child's inappropriate behavior for the sake of correction and discipline. Yet, blabbing that information to those who really don't need to know would be inappropriate. Likewise, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, as well as friends have a duty to keep some things that they know to themselves. Love is the guiding principal here.

Professional secrets include information that is entrusted to someone else. We are entering into tax season, and if we use an accountant to do our taxes, that accountant has a professional responsibility to keep our financial information secret. Doctors, nurses, and medical technicians have a duty to protect our health information. Psychologists, counselors, and lawyers must maintain secrecy regarding their clients. The duty to maintain confidentiality is assumed by the clients and expected of the professionals to whom they entrust personal and sometimes damaging information.

Committed or promised secrets are those secrets that someone entrusts to us with the understanding that we are not to divulge that information. They may have their own reasons for not wanting that information to come to light. Perhaps they had a crush on their biology teacher in high school, or they had various embarrassing exploits in college, or any number of mistakes they might have made in their life. Generally, such information is divulged only after secrecy is requested and accepted, or because of the relationship between the two people implies a pledge of secrecy. The matter might also fall into the category of natural secrets as well as a committed secret. Corporate and government secrets fall into the category of committed secrets. Why the top speed of a fighter jet is secret or why your friend wants you to keep something confidential might not be obvious or evident to us, but we are obliged to respect the request for secrecy nonetheless.

The ultimate level of secrecy is that of the individual conscience. The seal of the confessional is sacred and absolute. The matters of conscience expressed in the confessional are natural secrets, they are professional secrets, and they are implicitly committed secrets. The matters of individual conscience are between the individual and God, and are therefore sacred. They cannot be revealed by any third party, such as a priest or someone who might overhear a confession, under any circumstance.

But what about revealing other types of secrets besides matters of the conscience? Are all secrets absolute? The simple answer is no. There are some, such as thoroughly corrupt politicians, who want certain types of information to remain absolutely secret, but secrecy is not absolute. The truth ought to come to light for the sake of justice, to avoid serious harm to others, and for the common good. Secrecy is often where truth and love meet.

-Fr Booth