

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 22nd/March 23rd 2025: Third Sunday of Lent



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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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Robert Broussard, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 23rd to March 29th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Cynthia Broussard from March 30th until April 5th.

ANNUNCIATION: The Feast of the Annunciation is on Tuesday, March 25th. There will be an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. (instead of the normal Latin daily Mass) and a High Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, April 18th it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

FIRST COMMUNION: First Communion will be on March 30th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be offered on this Sunday, March 23rd after the 10:45 Mass and after First Communion Rehearsal. Rehearsal for First Communion will be on Saturday, March 29th at 9:00 a.m.

GOLF FORE LIFE: The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, May 16th at Highland Park Golf Course. Highland Golf Course is a great course and fun for golfers of all skill levels. Please come play golf and help raise money for Her Choice, a pro-life pregnancy resource center. Tee-off will be at 9:00 a.m. and box lunches will be available afterwards. The cost is \$250 (\$125 of which is tax deductible) per individual golfer and prizes will be awarded immediately following the tournament. Questions can be directed to Jim Pinto at Golf4life@herchoicebirmingham.org. Please register at <https://www.herchoicebirmingham.org/gfl/form.htm> by May 10th.

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.

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 \$28,885 and thus exceeding our goal.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7616 and \$1950 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, Mar 22:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Kay & Jesse Dorian (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Mar 23:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Steven Mezrano (by Greyson Tyler)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Jeff Hahn (by Caden Tyler)
Mon, Mar 24	*8:30 a.m.	† Mary Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Mar 25:	8:30 a.m.	† Edward Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
		† Robert Fredric Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Mar 26:	*8:30 a.m.	† Normand Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Mar 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Joseph & Maddie Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Mar 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for John-Anthony & Mary Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Mar 29:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Ryan & Clarissa Gaudet (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Mar 30:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Thom Price (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Peter Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Grace Hill, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, 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. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Josh 5:9,10-12, 2Cor 5:17-21, Lk 15:1-3,11-32
7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15
9:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Josh 5:9,10-12, 2Cor 5:17-21, Lk 15:1-3,11-32
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15

Brave Humility

The first chapter of the Gospel of Luke provides us with a conversation between the Virgin Mary and the archangel Gabriel. Gabriel comes to announce to Mary what her role will be in the salvation of mankind. Mary had no way of knowing that she would play a part in reconciling mankind to God. She had no way of knowing beforehand how critical her role truly would be. She had no way of knowing how God was going to reconcile fallen humanity. It was utterly hidden from her until Gabriel proclaims “*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end*” (Lk 1:30-33). The betrothed virgin objects, not because she doubts what Gabriel says or questions God’s ability to accomplish His will, but questions Gabriel’s message on a point of biology: “*How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?*” (Lk 1:34).

Mary clearly understands how babies are made. As a betrothed woman, legally married but awaiting the fullness of married life, any other woman in her situation would not have questioned the possibility, really the absolute expectation, of having children in the future. The objection indicates that her marriage was now and would always be truly celibate. Evidence for Joseph and Mary’s celibate life together can be seen when they venture to Jerusalem with the twelve-year-old Jesus. No other children of Joseph and Mary are mentioned. They would more than likely have had at least one but probably more children in those twelve years had they not remained celibate.

In any case, Gabriel’s explanation that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her so that she would conceive the Son of the Most High in her womb is not questioned. Gabriel makes it clear that it is not a matter of biology but of God accomplishing His purpose. Mary’s humility shines brightly when she proclaims “*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word*” (Lk 1:38). Mary is saying something that very few people are willing to embrace. She humbly submits herself totally and unreservedly to God’s will even though she could have been stoned to death as a presumed adulteress for being pregnant during the twelve month period of betrothal.

Indeed, it is entirely fitting that the mother of God Incarnate should exhibit such humility. For as humble as it might be for a young betrothed woman to entrust her life totally to God, how much more humility was necessary for the Second Person of the Holy Trinity to stoop to donning human flesh, even becoming subject to two of His own creatures.

In the letter to the Philippians, St Paul tells us about Jesus’ humility: “*Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross*” (Phil 2:6-8). What is more amazing is that Jesus, being divine, knew what would happen to Him before He took on flesh. He knew that He would be rejected, mocked, ridiculed, tortured, and crucified. Yet He chose to empty Himself of His eternal divine glory that He might be glorified and we might be saved through the evil that would be directed toward Him.

Indeed, Jesus and Mary stand as witnesses to humble bravery that is worthy of our imitation. Jesus was humbly brave in the face of known, freely chosen, and unimaginable degree of suffering while Mary was brave in the face of an unknown, uncertain, and quite possibly perilous future. If we are facing an uncertain future, we can certainly take the Virgin Mary as our example, or if we are confronted with a foreseeable calamity perhaps filled with great suffering, we can and ought to turn to Jesus. No matter what happens in our lives, we must have faith that it is for our sanctification and/or the sanctification of others. After all, consider what the sufferings and scandal of Jesus’ passion and death have obtained for us.