

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

January 31st/February 1st: 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Septuagesima (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: For Howard Von Hagel, Sr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 1st to February 7th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Colt Hull from February 8th until February 14th.

REST IN PEACE: Alice Muck, mother of Monica Duvall, passed away on January 29th. Her funeral will be at Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, February 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

REST IN PEACE: Mary Lynn Williams, aunt of Charlie Rumore and Catherine Hahn, passed away on January 29th. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on February 6th at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on February 7th. Altar server training will follow Mass.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2026: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS have been mailed.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT WEEKEND: The Office of Vocations is hosting a Priesthood Discernment Weekend from February 20th to 22nd at Casa Maria Retreat Center. Father Kurt R. Young, Vice-Rector at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will lead this weekend of prayer, talks, and fellowship for men discerning a call to priesthood. Father Wyman Vintson, Vicar for Vocations, will be present and available to answer questions about discernment, the application process, and seminary life. This weekend experience is for men ages 18-35. The event is free, but registration is required. Please register for this event at: <https://bhmdiocese.org/discernment-weekend>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Pledge Card in the mail, if not you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of January 30th, we have \$24,175 pledged.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4954 and \$520 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is large backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. No exceptions. The Mass Intentions for this week date from April 20th.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Jan 31:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for the Hill Family (by Jonathan & Gina Gagnon)
Sun, Feb 1:	7:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Feb 2:	*8:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Feb 3:	*8:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Feb 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Emmett Robert Connors & Family (by Kevin Kelly)
Thur, Feb 5:	*8:30 a.m.	† Joseph Grant Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Fri, Feb 6:	*8:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
	6:30 p.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Sat, Feb 7:	8:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Wendy Floyd (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Feb 8:	7:30 a.m.	† James Cook (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, Fr Timothy Gahan, George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, 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, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, 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.	5 th Sunday of Ordinary Time
7:30 a.m.	Sexagesima
9:00 a.m.	5 th Sunday of Ordinary Time
10:45 a.m.	Septuagesima

Isa 58:7-10, 1Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16
2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15
Isa 58:7-10, 1Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16
2Cor 11:19-12:9, Lk 8:4-15

Zeal for Love, Not for Hate

I stumbled across an internet video where a man, saying that he was a devout Christian, claimed that it was legitimate for Christians to hate others. He insisted that the Bible never teaches that hatred is wrong, sinful, or forbidden and that we even have a duty to hate some people. He did not quote where the Scriptures command us to hate our fellow man. He did not cite proof texts in or out of context to support his claim, but he was absolutely certain that his claim was true. He likewise did not name the people that we are allowed to hate or that we ought to hate. The closest he came to justifying his belief was that God hates some people and we are thus permitted to hate them as well.

Yes, God says through Malachi the prophet "*I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau*" (Mal 1:3). St Paul quotes this passage in his letter to the Romans: "*As it is written: 'I loved Jacob but hated Esau'*" (Rom 9:13). Aha! These are the smoking-gun verses the man in the video must be basing his belief that hate is licit, even obligatory for Christians. If so, we would surely hear St Paul, in his profound Christian zeal, "*breathing murderous threats against*" the enemies of Christ. Surely he dragged Jews and pagans out of their homes for imprisonment. Surely Paul would write something expressing the desire to "*heap burning coals upon his head*" regarding an enemy. Surely there would be examples of Paul's Christian zeal, zeal leading to violence. There just is no such evidence. Zip.

We'd also have to ask why God, who "*in these last days, spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word*" (Heb 1:2-3) would have Jesus create and sustain people He hates. Does God keep people in existence so that He might hate them, that we might have people to hate? In like manner, why would Paul actually write "*If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' Rather, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.' Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good*" (Rom 12:18-21)? Paul is essentially saying 'do not overcome hatred with hatred but conquer hatred with love.'

St John cannot be ignored either. He writes clearly that "*Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him*" (1Jn 3:15) and "*If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen*" (1Jn 4:20). Thus, we cannot hate and expect to obtain eternal life. However, the man claiming that we are allowed to hate would likely say that those he hates are not his brothers. The parable of the Good Samaritan disproves this argument. The second greatest commandment – You shall love your neighbor as yourself – knows no exceptions.

But the Bible clearly says "*I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau*" and therefore God hates. This is a prime example where literalistic interpretation of the Bible fails. Yes, the Bible is to be taken literally, but also in context. We interpret poetry differently than old-fashioned news reporting. We also take idioms and expressions into consideration. Loving one while hating another is a Hebrew idiom that would have been understood to mean that one is preferred to another. Thus, God loved Jacob more than Esau. Esau became a nation and was very prosperous, but that was the limit of his blessings. Jacob was not as rich but he was the father of the twelve tribes, the Chosen People, that fulfilled God's covenant with Abraham. God blessed them differently, Jacob more than Esau.

In any case, Jesus' own words also cannot be ignored: "*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust*" (Mt 5:43-45).

That man's claim about hating others clearly demonstrates the importance of knowing the Scriptures. How many people, including himself, has he led away from the Lord? -Fr Booth