

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 21st/February 22nd: First Sunday of Lent



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, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 22nd to February 28th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Robert Bryant from March 1st until March 7th.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Black and Indian Missions.

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 3rd it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

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

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 February 20th, we have \$25,175 pledged.

FIRST COMMUNION: We have scheduled our First Communion on March 15th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be offered on Sunday, March 1st after the 10:45 Mass, Sunday, March 8th after the 10:45 Mass, and after First Communion Rehearsal. Rehearsal for First Communion will be on Saturday, March 14th beginning at 10:00 a.m.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5460 and \$465 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 May 11th.

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

Sat, Feb 21:	9:10 a.m.	Private Intention
	4:00 p.m.	† Robert C. Bryant (by Bryant Family)
Sun, Feb 22:	7:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the DiPiazza Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Ann Marie Hahn (by the Juneau Family)
Mon, Feb 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Beaumont (by the Juneau Family)
Tues, Feb 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Carlisle Gaudet (by the Jimenez Family)
Wed, Feb 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Sean Hughes (by the Jimenez Family)
Thur, Feb 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Isabella Gaudet (by the Jimenez Family)
Fri, Feb 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Sonya LaRussa (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)
Sat, Feb 28:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Joseph Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Mar 1:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Emmett Robert Connors (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for John Luke Brueggen (by the Duvall 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, 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. 2 nd Sunday of Lent	Gen 12:1-4, 2Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9
7:30 a.m. 2 nd Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9
9:00 a.m. 2 nd Sunday of Lent	Gen 12:1-4, 2Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9
10:45 a.m. 2 nd Sunday of Lent	1Thes 4:1-7, Mt 17:1-9

What Do You Love?

Love must have an object, the one that is loved. Three possibilities for love exist. The first potential object of love is something that is not a person. Strictly speaking, only persons are proper objects of the love spoken of in the Bible, especially the New Testament. Strictly speaking, only humans, angels, and the divine Persons of the Trinity are persons. Flowers, dogs, cats, diamonds, food, ideas, music, and so forth are not persons. Pets and other animals might seem to be persons. We can say that they have their own personalities. Each species will have its own temperaments and dispositions, and there will be variations in these traits among members of the same species. Fido and Rex might be the same breed, even sharing the same mother and father, but each will have qualities that make them unique. But dogs can't be cats nor can cats be kangaroos. No animal is a human even though humans are animals. In fact, we are rational animals, meaning that we have intellect and will, while all other physical beings are irrational, lacking a full intellect and full free-will.

Now, if someone loves a non-living thing, this is truly disordered. They might really like diamonds or ice cream, but Biblical love of a non-living thing is idolatry. Referencing back to St Paul's description of love from First Corinthians chapter 13 makes this clear. How can we be unkind to a thing? Or impatient with a thing? Can we be prideful, jealous, or rude toward a thing? Things might make us mad or otherwise challenge us, but they are still mere things.

Secondly, we ourselves are often the object of our love. Self-love comes naturally to mankind. Too naturally. Our fallen nature is largely to blame. We forget what we really are. While we are not mere things, we think we are something when we really are more akin to nothing. Of course we are not nothing, but Ash Wednesday puts things into a proper perspective: 'Remember, man, that you are dust and unto dust you shall return.' Indeed, the ash placed on our foreheads is something, enough of a something to mar our appearance and perhaps to make a mess of our clothes, but it is not much of a something. Ashes have virtually no practical uses. Ash used to be something but fire has rendered that something into virtual nothingness. Nevertheless, there is substance enough for ashes to be blessed. Like ashes, we are virtually nothing but we can be blessed and raised up to be something. Self-love does not achieve our elevation – instead it presumes a lofty status – but it is God's love that lifts us up.

Self-love is a true and honorable thing when it is properly understood. If we understand that we are mere finite and frail creatures before an infinite and almighty God, if we understand that we have dignity because we were created in God's image and likeness, and if we understand that we all have betrayed our God-given dignity through sin, then we can begin to love ourselves appropriately. True self-love ought to bring us to seeking God, desiring to be right before Him, serving Him, and wanting to be with Him forever in heaven.

True self-love brings us to the third object of love, the proper object. True love has an object that is a person outside of ourselves. None of the qualities of love mentioned in First Corinthians 13 is inwardly directed. They are all in reference to someone besides ourselves, they are all outwardly focused. One way to look at loving our neighbors is to want and strive for them to desire, seek, serve, and obtain union with God. We should love our fellow man by assisting him to obtain what our appropriate self-love wants for us. This is what Jesus means when He says "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*" (Mt 22:39). Love of neighbor is not just being kind or polite, but wanting what is best for them, especially regarding their salvation. Another way to understand our love for our neighbor lies in respecting the fact that they are made in the image and likeness of God and that God loves them unconditionally. If God loves them so, how can we fail to follow suit? Given that the greatest commandment is "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*" (Mt 22:37), this should lead us to love our neighbor as ourselves, that we love our neighbor because we love God above all else. Starting with love of God above all else and appropriately loving ourselves both should lead to same place, that being love of our neighbor. -Fr Booth