

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**March 7<sup>th</sup> / March 8<sup>st</sup>: Third Sunday of Lent**



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211  
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)  
Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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 Benjamin and Lydia Blaylock, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from March 8<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Bessie K. Lawrence from March 15<sup>th</sup> until March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

**FIRST COMMUNION:** We have scheduled our First Communion for next Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be offered this Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> after the 10:45 Mass, and after First Communion Rehearsal. Rehearsal for First Communion will be on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**THIRD SUNDAY:** Next Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> is the third Sunday of the month. Since we have First Communion on this date, there will be no third Sunday social and no vocations prayers following the 10:45 Mass.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** for local homeschool students is set for Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The ceremony will be in the Great Hall on the campus of the Cathedral of St. Paul and will begin with Vespers at 5:00 p.m. More information can be obtained via [bhamcathgrad@gmail.com](mailto:bhamcathgrad@gmail.com) or to register, please visit <https://bhamcathgrad.weebly.com/>

**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](http://catholiccharitiesbhm.org). Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of March 6<sup>th</sup>, we have \$25,175 pledged.

**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 \$9650 and \$840 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 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

Sat, Mar 7:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Andrew Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Dr. Delbert Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Mar 8:	7:30 a.m.	Private intention
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Maribeth Guerrero (by Charlotte & Terry Rumore)
Mon, Mar 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Sr Krista Marie Hall, OP (by the Mathews Family)
Tues, Mar 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie Rumore (by the Mathews Family)
Wed, Mar 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Sr Mary Juliana Cox (by the Hall Family)
Thur, Mar 12:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Fr Michael Adams (by the Hall Family)
Fri, Mar 13:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Kara Pepe (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Mar 14:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jacie Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Adrian Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Mar 15:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Max Cook (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie Rumore (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, 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. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41
7:30 a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15
9:00 a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41
10:45 a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Gal 4:22-31, Jn 6:1-15

## *Jesus, the Suffering Servant*

The book of Isaiah contains multiple messianic prophecies that tell us about the Messiah and His mission, such as His virgin birth (Isa 7:14) as well as His bringing good news to the poor (Isa 61:1-2). There are four prophecies in particular revealing that the Messiah would suffer for the sake of others. These are called the Suffering Servant Songs, found in Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-11, and 52:13-53:12. None of these passages outright claims that the servant spoken of is specifically the Messiah, but in light of Jesus, it becomes clear that they apply uniquely to Him. Two thousand years ago, these verses from Isaiah were not associated with the longed-for Messiah. Linking the Suffering Servant Songs to Jesus only happened after the Passion and Resurrection. The description of the Servant clashes greatly with the contemporary Jewish understanding of the Messiah, perhaps explaining why the association of Jesus with the Servant described in Isaiah was not made in Jesus' day.

The messianic expectations that many had at the time of Jesus were quite wrong. Yes, the Messiah was to be a Son of David and He was to be King, but it was a mistake to assume that He would be just like King David and be the king of a new and revitalized nation of Israel. They expected the Messiah to perform mighty feats like the killing Goliath and have military conquests galore. During the time of Jesus' life, the expectation was that the Messiah would vanquish the mighty Romans. This sounds a bit outlandish, that the Jews would throw off the yoke of the Roman Empire, but defeating larger and superior armies has been a hallmark of the Hebrews since the time of Moses. Indeed, who would have expected the Hebrews to be liberated from enslavement to the mighty Egyptians?

In any case, a Suffering Servant is the antithesis of what the Jews expected and hoped for in the Messiah. Jesus' contemporaries were very much caught up in their preconceived ideas of the Messiah and Jesus certainly did not fulfill their desires. Truth be told, He greatly over-delivered on their expectations, but their preconceived notions blinded them from seeing what Jesus wrought through His suffering. We see the scope of what Jesus delivered in the First Suffering Servant Song, achievements that far exceeded what the Jews had in mind for the Messiah:

*“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him, he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law”* (Isa 42:1-4).

Would the Jews' idea of a new King David ruling over a new earthly Israel *“bring forth justice to the nations”*? If justice is understood as vengeance, then yes. That justice might mean reconciling the nations to God was not what they had in mind even though the Old Testament speaks of the conversion of the gentiles (Gen 22:18, Ps 22:27, Ps 86:9, Isa 42:1, etc.). With God anything is possible, but establishing justice by reconciling the pagans to God would be a greater accomplishment than could be expected of their preconceived image of the Messiah.

If they thought justice was smashing heads and smiting God's enemies, then how could the Messiah be so meek and mild as to *“not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench”*? A mild and humble Messiah was unthinkable. Then again, Isaiah says *“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever”* (Isa 9:5-6).

Yes, *“the coastlands wait for his law”* because this Suffering Servant is not the savior of the Jews but of all mankind. Even the Apostles, after going forth to spread the Gospel, are shocked and surprised that salvation applies to the gentiles. *“When they heard this, they stopped objecting and glorified God, saying, ‘God has then granted life-giving repentance to the gentiles too’”* (Acts 11:18).

-Fr Booth