

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 28th / March 29th 2026: Palm Sunday



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Ann Roberts, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 29th to April 4th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Fr Mark Beard from April 5th until April 11th.

PALM SUNDAY: This Sunday is Palm Sunday. Due to time constraints, for the 7:30 a.m. Mass the abbreviated Gospel will be used, the palms will be previously blessed, and there will be no procession. Also, the 10:45 Mass will be a Low Mass.

CHRISM MASS: Due to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, there will be no morning Mass at Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, March 31st.

STATIONS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 2:30 p.m. on Good Friday, April 3rd.

FIRST FRIDAY: There will be no First Friday activities on April 3rd.

FIRST SATURDAY: There will be no First Saturday activities on April 4th.

FIRST SUNDAY: There will be no First Sunday coffee and donuts on April 5th.

YOUNG WOMEN’S RETREAT DAY: Single Catholic women age 18 to 28 are invited to attend the Dominican Holiness Retreat Day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th at the Dominican Monastery of St Jude in Marbury, Alabama. The cloistered Dominican nuns will share how their charism can inspire you to draw closer to Jesus and Mary in your life today, followed by prayer, lunch, and a Q&A session. Learn more and register at: marburydominicannuns.org/retreat-days

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, Deacon 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, Deacon Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4937 and \$110 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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 March 27th, we have \$25,175 pledged.

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 25th.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Thur, Apr 2: 5:30 p.m. Confessions
6:30 p.m. Latin High Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri Apr 3: 1:30 p.m. Confessions
2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Latin Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Sat, Apr 4 8:00 p.m. High Easter Vigil Mass in Latin
Sun, Apr 5 7:30 a.m. Easter Low Mass in Latin
9:00 a.m. Easter Mass in English
10:45 a.m. Easter High Mass in Latin

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

Sat, Mar 28: 4:00 p.m. Special intention for Charles Ferino, Jr. (by the Ferinos)
Sun, Mar 29: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Nancy Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for Bonnie Hill (by the Ferino Family)
Mon, Mar 30: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Christina Ray (by the Ferino Family)
Tues, Mar 31: *Chrism Mass at St Paul's Cathedral*
Wed, Apr 1: 8:30 a.m. Special intention for Chris Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
Thur, Apr 2: 6:30 p.m. Special intention for Fr Michael Adams (by the Ferino Family)
Fri, Apr 3: 3:00 p.m. *Latin Liturgy of the Lord's Passion*
Sat, Apr 4: 8:00 p.m. † Emmett Conners (by Mary Jane Kelly)
Sun, Apr 5: 7:30 a.m. † Grace Hill (by Mary Jane Kelly)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Kelly Family (by Kevin Kelly)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, 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

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Gen 1:1-2:2, Exo 14:24-15:1, Isa 4:2-6, Dt 31:22-30, Col 3:1-4, Mt 28:1-7
7:30 a.m. Easter Sunday 1Cor 5:7-8, Lk 24:1-12
9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Acts 10:34,37-43, Col 3:1-4, Jn 20:1-9
10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday 1Cor 5:7-8, Lk 24:1-12

Jesus, the Suffering Servant

The fourth and final Suffering Servant Song is much longer than the other three. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to include it in its entirety. Because this passage is uniquely fulfilled in Christ, it is even more profitable to read it carefully and meditate upon it, especially during Holy Week.

“See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him – so marred were his features, beyond that of mortals his appearance, beyond that of human beings – so shall he startle many nations, kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it. Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain, like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth. Seized and condemned, he was taken away. Who would have thought any more of his destiny? For he was cut off from the land of the living, struck for the sins of his people. He was given a grave among the wicked, a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong, nor was deceit found in his mouth. But it was the Lord’s will to crush him with pain. By making his life as a reparation offering, he shall see his offspring, shall lengthen his days, and the Lord’s will shall be accomplished through him. Because of his anguish he shall see the light; because of his knowledge he shall be content; My servant, the just one, shall justify the many, their iniquity he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the many, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death, was counted among the transgressors, bore the sins of many, and interceded for the transgressors” (Isa 52:13-53:12).

Some points are worth noting. For example, *“Seized and condemned, he was taken away. Who would have thought any more of his destiny? For he was cut off from the land of the living, struck for the sins of his people”* reflects the attitude of the people. Once Jesus was arrested and especially after He was crucified, many thought no more of Him. After all, He was dead and *“He was given a grave among the wicked, a burial place with evildoers.”* Dead and buried, He was done for and worthy of no more thought. *“[T]hough he had done no wrong, nor was deceit found in his mouth”* Jesus was regarded as a criminal and worthy of the punishment assigned to Him by the Jewish and Roman leaders. If He was the Messiah, surely He would not have been handed over, scourged, and crucified.

Yes, *“he was cut off from the land of the living.”* This was not in dispute at all. The Roman executioners were proficient and experienced to the point that it was obvious that Jesus had died. Yet it was not obvious that Jesus was *“struck for the sins of his people.”* They thought He died for His own transgressions, surely just punishment was meted out upon Jesus, *“but he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.”* Jesus’ death affects our salvation *“By making his life as a reparation offering, he shall see his offspring, shall lengthen his days, and the Lord’s will shall be accomplished through him.”* Jesus was the last Sacrificial Lamb offered to God and the only sacrifice that truly atoned for our sins. That *“he shall see his offspring, shall lengthen his days”* tells us that Jesus’ death is not the final word and points to His resurrection. Jesus triumphs such that He *“shall divide the spoils with the mighty.”* Even Jesus’ words from the cross – *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do”* (Lk 23:34) – are prefigured in this Suffering Servant Song: *“[he] bore the sins of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”*

-Fr Booth