

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**April 4<sup>th</sup> / April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026: Easter Sunday**



**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:** Fr Mark Beard, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of George Lally, Sr. from April 12<sup>th</sup> until April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** There will be no First Sunday coffee and donuts this Sunday.

**CATHOLIC SCIENTIST ON EWTN ‘LIVE’:** Renowned physicist and Thomistic philosopher Dr. Anthony Rizzi, founder of The Institute for Advanced Physics, will discuss “How St Thomas Can Save the World” with Fr Pacwa on EWTN ‘Live’ on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. central time. Fr Pacwa and Dr. Rizzi will discuss how the philosophical teachings of St Thomas Aquinas, who was born about 800 years ago, are at the core of the solution to many of the world’s problems and how modern physics is as well!

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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: [marburymonasticnuns.org/retreat-days](http://marburymonasticnuns.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 \$8282 and \$85 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 April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Sat, Apr 4:	8:00 p.m.	† Emmett Connors (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)
Mon, Apr 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Kevin Kelly (by Mary Jane Kelly)
Tues, Apr 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Judy Rohling & Family (by the Juneau Family)
Wed, Apr 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Leah Flowers (by the Meeker Family)
Thur, Apr 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Maddie Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Apr 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Michael Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
Sat, Apr 11:	4:00 p.m.	† Catherine Lester Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Sun, Apr 12:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Shields (by Monica Duvall)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Phil McReynolds (by the Duvall Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially for Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, George Sampetro, 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. Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 2:42-47, 1Pet 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31
7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31
9:00 a.m. Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 2:42-47, 1Pet 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31
10:45 a.m. Divine Mercy Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31

## *Easter Victory, Easter Hope*

The events of Good Friday had a certain finality to them. Several women, at least four, and the Apostle John saw Jesus die on the cross. Other Apostles might have observed from a distance. In Luke's Gospel, he mentions other possible disciples being present at the point of Jesus' death: "*The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, 'This man was innocent beyond doubt.' When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events*" (Lk 23:47-49). Luke took great pains to research the life of Jesus (see Lk 1:1-4), so his testimony about others watching at a distance cannot be ignored or discounted. It is probable that someone like Peter or James were unnamed eyewitnesses to the death of Jesus. After all, Peter did follow, at a safe distance, the mob that had arrested Jesus. Either way, the testimony of John, Mary Magdalene, and the virgin Mary would have been definitive. The Apostles might have also heard from Joseph of Arimathea or Nicodemus who took Jesus down from the cross and placed His body in Joseph's tomb. Even if Joseph or Nicodemus did not report anything to the Apostles, the women who were at the foot of the cross not only watched Him die but were present at the burial of Jesus. Even without eyewitness accounts of Jesus' death, the thoroughness of the Roman soldiers that crucified Jesus would have left little doubt of His fate in the Apostles' minds.

Thus, Good Friday evening and the following forty hours must have been sorrowful beyond measure. All manner of thoughts would have coursed through the minds of the Apostles and disciples. Did we fail Jesus? We all said that we would willingly die with Him, but we did not have the nerve to stand with Jesus and to die along side of Him. How am I any better than Judas? Didn't Jesus say at the Last Supper that "*The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born*" (Mt 26:24)? Does what He said apply to us along with Judas? We slept while Jesus asked us to pray with Him in the Garden. We ran away when Jesus was arrested. Only John and a few women were strong and brave enough to be with Jesus at the foot of the cross. Some Apostles we turned out to be.

Didn't Jesus just teach at the Last Supper that "*If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you*" (Jn 15:18-20). It is little wonder that those who ran when Jesus was arrested and were either at a distance from the cross or totally absent cowered behind locked doors. Had their thoughts turned to their own fate, the Apostles might have asked some tough questions. No doubt they will crucify us as surely as Jesus was crucified, but will we expire after a few hours on our crosses like Jesus or will we linger for several days as most people do when crucified? How much abuse will we suffer as we hang helplessly from our crosses? Will there be someone like Joseph of Arimathea or Nicodemus to take us down from the cross when we expire? Will there be places of burial for us? Or will we be left to rot on our crosses?

No matter what thoughts went through their minds after Jesus' death on the cross, it is almost certain that their hope was challenged even if their faith in Jesus and their love for Him had not evaporated at His death. Hope is the trust we place in God's promises. Yes, Jesus promised that He would die and rise again, but hope in that promise was upended by the seeming finality of His death. All of His other promises that seemed worthy of trust became subject to doubt. The scribes and Pharisees who opposed Him time after time without success seem to have won in the end. The promises only seemed to be undone and the scribes and Pharisees only seemed to prevail. Jesus' resurrection restored the Apostles hope and therefore Easter must be the basis of our hope in Jesus and His promises, especially eternal life. It is Jesus' resurrection that fortifies our hope, our trust, that our sins will be forgiven and that death does not win in the end. Indeed, if sin and death are our greatest enemies, then Jesus is a far greater victor than many people imagine. -Fr Booth