

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 25<sup>th</sup> / April 26<sup>th</sup> 2026: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (English)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter (Latin)



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 Bill Weis, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Clement Muck from May 3<sup>rd</sup> until May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection this weekend for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, supporting mission churches throughout the country.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** We will have our First Friday English Mass on May 1<sup>st</sup> 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Altar server training will follow Mass.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Due to various circumstances, coffee and donuts will take place on the following Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, following the 9:00 Mass.

**MAY CROWNING:** We will crown a statue of Mary next Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> following the 9:00 a.m. and the 10:45 a.m. Masses.

**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/>

**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.

**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 April 24<sup>th</sup>, we have \$25,175 pledged.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$5648 and \$5110 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 June 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Sat, Apr 25:	4:00 p.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Sun, Apr 26:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jonathan Hooks, Jr. (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Dominic Lang (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Apr 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Grant Baumbach (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Apr 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Cole & Anna Stevens (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Apr 29:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Paul & Tracy Gil (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Apr 30:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, May 1:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Bill & Judy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special intention for Krystal Buck (by Liberty Buck)
Sat, May 2:	8:30 a.m.	† Catherine Lester Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Guy & Bebe Buck (by Liberty Buck)
Sun, May 3:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jenna Buck (by Liberty Buck)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Sean & Joanne Buck (by Liberty Buck)

**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**

4:00 p.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 6:1-7, 1Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12
7:30 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter	James 1:17-21, Jn 16:5-14
9:00 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 6:1-7, 1Pet 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12
10:45 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter	James 1:17-21, Jn 16:5-14

## *Jesus, Our Good Shepherd*

When Jesus says He is the Good Shepherd, it is quite likely that some who heard Him chuckled to themselves or even laughed out loud. This might strike us as odd. However, at the time shepherds were regarded as among the lowest of men, not much better than a leper. This was true all through the region. The Romans and Greeks regarded shepherds as among the lowest classes of people. This was even true of the Jews. They regarded shepherds as unworthy of giving testimony in court. Why would this be? It had something to do with the job of shepherding as requiring no particular skill. It was something that even the most mentally ungifted could and would do. It was by its nature a fairly dangerous job. The shepherds were expected to protect the flock from wolves, hyenas, jackals, leopards, and bears. They were more nomadic than what most men were willing to tolerate. It is also likely that the marriage prospects of the typical shepherd were more of less nil. They did not make enough money to start or sustain a family and the nomadic life was probably less than appealing to most women. Tax collectors were on par with the shepherd in terms of popularity among the people. While better regarded than the world's oldest profession, shepherding might well have been the world's second oldest profession by analogy.

The low regard for shepherds might be understandable among the pagans, but one might think that the Jews would hold shepherds in higher regard. After all, some very important people in the Old Testament were shepherds. For example, Abel was a shepherd while Cain was a farmer. Abel's sacrifice was found acceptable by God while Cain's was not. Yet the Jews of Jesus' day regarded farming as a respectable profession. The three primary patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – were all shepherds. It does not get more important than these three in Judaism. The promise of a nation first came through Abraham, he is the father of the Chosen People and the sign of the covenant was first entrusted to him. The promise continued through Abraham's only son Isaac, and it is Isaac that was offered as a sacrifice, a sacrifice that was halted by God, on the same mountain that the Temple would later be erected by Solomon. Jacob, renamed Israel by God, is the father of the twelve patriarchs from which the twelve tribes of Israel sprung. Each of Jacob's twelve sons, the heads of the tribes of Israel, were also shepherds. Moses, the giver of the Law, was also a shepherd. He would not only give the commandments of God to the tribes of Israel, he liberated them from slavery in Egypt through God's power. The prophet Amos was a shepherd and it is likely that other prophets and judges were also.

While Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and the others were all shepherds, David is most explicitly associated as a shepherd. As the last-born son of Jesse, it fell to David to tend the flocks. Thus, by David's day, about a thousand years before Jesus, it might well have been that shepherding was not held in tremendously high esteem. David's shepherding skills nonetheless led to the victory over Goliath and the Philistines. David had to protect the flock from wild animals with his sling, a far deadlier weapon than any of the professional warriors could imagine. Goliath certainly did not respect David or his sling, something he would soon regret dearly.

David is king, prophet, warrior, victor, bringer of peace, and yet began as a lowly shepherd. Jesus does not hesitate to embrace the role and image of shepherd, a role and image that ought to have been held in higher esteem given the history of the Chosen People and the lives of their patriarchs. But God does not bend to the whims of man. The image of the Good Shepherd was embraced by Jesus and it was neither here nor there what His contemporaries thought of shepherds. Indeed, God tends to utterly discount the mercurial notions and caprices of man. For example, who were the first to hear the "*good news of great joy*" (Lk 2:10) of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem? Was it the king? Was it a prince? Was it a rich man well-regarded? Was it a high priest? An ordinary priest? A Levite or a scribe? No, God chose to announce the birth of His only Son to mere shepherds.

So, Jesus choosing to be our Good Shepherd and allowing us to be His sheep tells us that He and His kingdom cater not only to the elite but also to the lowest of the low.

- Fr Booth