

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 16th/May 17th 2026: Ascension (English)
Sunday After Ascension (Latin)



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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 Joel Levenberg, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 17th to May 23rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Guillermo Davila Camacho from May 18th until May 30th.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: For the Latin Mass, the Feast of the Ascension occurs on Thursday, May 14th. For English, it occurs on Sunday, May 17th. Since the English Mass has been transferred to the following Sunday, the Ascension is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nevertheless, we will have a High Latin Mass on Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION for local homeschool students is set for Thursday, May 21st, 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 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. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of May 15th, we have \$25,175 pledged.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5108 and \$1175 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 July 13th.

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

Sat, May 16: 9:15 a.m. † Fr Larry Shinick
4:00 p.m. † Renee Boackle Ritchey (by Lynn Bryant)

Sun, May 17: 7:30 a.m. † Beverly Scroggins (by the Clemens Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † William Scroggins (by the Clemens Family)

Mon, May 18: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Gabriel & Emily Permann (by the Penney Family)

Tues, May 19: *8:30 a.m. † Bailey Chestnut (by the DiPiazza Family)

Wed, May 20: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Charlotte Rumore (by the DiPiazza Family)

Thur, May 21: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Patrick Loftus (by the DiPiazza Family)

Fri, May 22: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Ted Loftus (by the DiPiazza Family)

Sat, May 23: 4:00 p.m. † Tim MacKinaw (by Julie Bryant)

Sun, May 24: 7:30 a.m. † Grace Hill (by the Clemens Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Beverly Scroggins (by the Clemens Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Casey Daniel, 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. Pentecost	Gen 11:1-9, Rom 8:22-27, Jn 7:37-39
7:30 a.m. Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11, Jn 14:23-31
9:00 a.m. Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7,12-13, Jn 20:19-23
10:45 a.m. Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11, Jn 14:23-31

Forty Days

One has to wonder what Jesus told His disciples during the forty days He spent with them from Easter to the Ascension. We get precious little in the Gospels of what Jesus taught during this period. We have to admit, however, that we do not have every day or every week or even every month of Jesus' 3-year ministry conclusively documented across all four Gospels. It is actually shocking sparse and there can be little doubt that Jesus performed many more miracles than we imagine. He probably taught things that are not recorded in the Gospels, and there is no doubt that Jesus repeated Himself and reiterated His teachings. We have an example of this with the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew (Mt 5-7) and the teachings found in the Sermon on the Plain found in Luke's Gospel (Lk 6:20-49).

Therefore a gap in what Jesus taught should not be all that surprising then. But isn't this 40-day period leading up to the Ascension kind of important? Yes! Things are very different after the Resurrection than they were prior. The Apostles are hardly the same either. They would have listened to Jesus quite differently after Easter than they did before. Even though the details are on the sparse side, we are not totally in the dark here. Luke tells us in our reading from Acts that Jesus "*presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*"

One of the things Jesus did in those forty days was to cement the reality of the Resurrection firmly in the hearts and minds of the Apostles. The truth of the resurrection of Jesus is so crucial to the faith that He was seen, He was heard, He was touched, He was do doubt smelled, and He tasted food with them. He was recognized in the breaking of the Bread in Emmaus, not just in His words, but by the other senses as well. Jesus was no ghost, no phantasm, no hallucination, no illusion. He had risen.

So, besides driving home the reality of rising from the dead, Jesus also spoke to the Apostles about the Kingdom of God. This too is something that Jesus had to teach about so that there would be no confusion. For example, when Peter, John, and five others chose to go fishing (Jn 21:1-14) and having caught nothing all night, Jesus taught them about the Kingdom of God by bringing about the large catch of 153 large fish that six men could not bring to shore, it is Peter and Peter alone that landed the fish without tearing the net. Thus, Peter is the nexus of unity and the prime Apostle who did what other disciples and Apostles could not do. Jesus instructs Peter to feed and tend the sheep of the Kingdom (Jn 21:15-19). But even after those forty days, the Apostles don't quite understand. This is evident in their question: "*Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?*" (Acts 1:6). It is as if the Apostles expected Jesus to enthrone Himself as King in Jerusalem and reign like David over the Holy Land. A common misunderstanding of the Messiah.

This misunderstanding persists to this day. Many followers of Jesus, mostly protestants, think He will return and establish His Kingdom, rebuilding the Temple, and even returning to the ritual sacrifice of various animals. Why does Jesus need an earthly palace, an earthly Temple, or a return to animal sacrifices? Doesn't He already reign over heaven and earth? Isn't His Mystical Body – the Church – the new Temple and the earthly manifestation of His Kingdom? Hasn't Jesus already offered the one true Sacrifice? This misunderstanding is reinforced by misinterpreting Jesus' words "*It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority*" as if the establishment of His Kingdom lies in the vague future.

The reality is that Jesus does not tell them a specific date, but tells them how and by whom the Kingdom is being established. The Kingdom will spread forth from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. And Jesus tells them who will spread the Kingdom of God: the Holy Spirit working through the Apostles.

In other words, the 'what' is the Kingdom on earth. The 'who' is the Apostles and the Holy Spirit. The 'how' is the witness of the Apostles and the Power of the Spirit. The 'where' is the mustard seed of Jerusalem growing into the whole world.

- Fr Booth