

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**October 24th/October 25th 2026: 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Christ the King (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 the Therese Gagnon, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from October 25th to October 31st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen & Jack Schauer from November 1st until November 7th.

MEN’S ROOM: The Men’s room, is in the process of renovation. It is currently usable.

SEMINARY LIVE-IN WEEKEND: The Office of Vocations will host a Seminary Live-In at St Meinrad Seminary November 12th to 15th. This event is for men 18-35 years of age. The weekend is an opportunity for men to experience daily life in the seminary, attend classes, and meet current seminarians. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS: Blessed Sacrament will begin accepting electronic contributions in the upcoming months. It will be an on-line based system that will accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, and ACH transfers.

OCIA CLASSES: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes will continue on Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00 pm in the rectory chapel.

THE BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL: You can mail your pledge card to the diocese or enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$30,885. As of October 23rd, \$22,400 have been pledged thus far.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Benjamin Caruna, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Nathan Mitchell, Nicholas Shovel, Axel Lopez, Fox Garon, Deacon Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thurs, Nov 5th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The keynote speaker will be Dr. George Delgado, a pioneer in abortion pill reversal. Make your reservation, consider hosting a table of eight, or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women’s Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS LIFE: Please pray for Sister María Josefa of the Divine Providence and Jessica Saville.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4936, \$640 was given for the Preservation Fund, and \$1397 was given to World Missions. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: The backlog of Mass Intentions has been greatly reduced. Multiple Mass Intention requests per week will again be accepted. The Mass Intentions for this week date from June 14th.

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

Sat, Oct 24:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Joy Jimenez (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)
Sun, Oct 25:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mr. & Mrs. Jackson Beals (by the Schwager Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Sarah Catherine Rumore (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)
Mon, Oct 26:	*8:30 a.m.	† Henry E. Witt (by the Schwager Family)
Tues, Oct 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Benedict Lang (by Richard & Barabara Juneau)
Wed, Oct 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Fr Den Irwin (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Oct 29:	*8:30 a.m.	† Jeffrey Brown (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)
Fri, Oct 30:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Ashlie Cato (by Susan Tyler)
Sat, Oct 31:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Cheryl Robinson (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Nov 1:	7:30 a.m.	† Souls in Purgatory (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Alan Mason (by Alan & Pam Olson)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for James Cover, Dennis Taubitz, Suzanne Vickery, 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, 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, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m. All Saints	Exo 22:20-26, 1Thes 1:5-10, Mt 22:34-40
7:30 a.m. All Saints	Col 1:12-20, Jn 18:33-37
9:00 a.m. All Saints	Exo 22:20-26, 1Thes 1:5-10, Mt 22:34-40
10:45 a.m. All Saints	Col 1:12-20, Jn 18:33-37

The Spirit of the Age

So why is American culture, along with many other cultures as well, going off the rails? As mentioned already, Christians share blame in this process because we have not striven to live the Gospel and to hold the culture to Gospel values. More and more people are ashamed of being disciples of Christ. Our Catholic colleges shed their identity to compete with secular schools. Many Catholic colleges prefer to be elite than to be Catholic. Many parochial schools strive to maintain enrollment levels even if it means paying lip service to the faith. Having a winning football team and obtaining as many scholarships as possible are the metrics for success instead of preparing students for spiritual success. Obtaining high-paying jobs seems more important than obtaining heaven.

We have also allowed the secular culture to set the moral tone to the point that Christian ethics have been pushed aside or even turned upside down. Justice is no longer blind and objective but arbitrary and partisan. Inequities are overlooked if done by someone on our 'team' but fully punished if done by someone from the opposing 'team.' Personal responsibility has been replaced with group entitlement or group guilt such that the innocent living today are held responsible for the sins or perceived sins of their ancestors (contra Jer 31:29-30) while there is an unearned moral cachet for those whose ancestors were victimized. Turn the other cheek (Mt 5:38-39) has been replaced with an eye-for-an-eye (Exo 21:24) and often an escalating sequence of vengeance. The Old Testament teaching of an-eye-for-an-eye eliminated undue retribution while Jesus' teaching on turning the other cheek is meant to eliminate retribution altogether. Forgiveness is no longer granted but grudges are held tightly. Forgiveness is for the weak while victimhood equates with virtue.

While the moral and cultural decline is accelerating at a brisk pace, we got where we are today slowly. One compromise leads to another until there is little room for compromise without total surrender. One of the best examples of this is how contraception went from a universally understood evil to a nearly universally perceived moral 'virtue.' One hundred years ago, all Christians and nearly all religions rightly taught that contraception was gravely sinful. The moral dam broke in 1930 with the church of England allowing married couples to contracept if they had serious reasons for doing so. Soon, the caveat of needing a serious reason was lifted. Soon after that, contraception became a way of life for the married and the unmarried alike. The 'virtue of responsible parenthood' opened the door for the normalization of vices such as fornication, adultery, and general promiscuity.

Just as purity and chastity are disdained, so is the idea of sacrifice. Yes, we still laud the sacrifices that others make to keep us safe and secure. We hold policemen, firemen, and soldiers in high esteem when they pay the ultimate price. However, we are glad that someone else is doing the sacrificing on our behalf. Today, our military goes off to far distant lands while we remain at home griping about high gas prices. Yes, we can debate the wisdom of how the armed forces are employed, but if the general public's biggest sacrifice is economic discomfort, then we have to wonder how soft we have become. Could we sacrifice as our ancestors did in the world wars of the last century? Can we even imagine facing rationing of gasoline, tires, clothing, footwear, dairy products, meat, fish, sugar, flour, coffee, and many other staples we take for granted? If the survival of our country or our way of life depended on it, would we tolerate going without our daily large pumpkin spice mocha frappuccino? For four days? For four weeks? For four months? For four years?

Sacrificing creature comforts for a good cause seems extreme today because we are soft. But sacrifice is the language of love. After all, Jesus taught at the Last Supper "*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you*" (Jn 15:12-14). Likewise, when the Apostles could not drive out a certain demon, Jesus responded, saying "*This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting*" (Mk 9:29). It is likely that the wicked spirit of this age that darkens our culture cannot be driven out except by the sacrifice of prayer and fasting.

- Fr Booth