

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

June 8th/June 9th 2024: Tenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Third Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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**E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
Website: 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. If you wish to join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Julia V. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from June 9th until June 15th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Julia V. Bryant from June 16th until June 22nd.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, June 15th. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

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

CONFIRMATION: We are planning on having Confirmation later this year at a date that is to be determined. The bishop has offered to confirm using the new rite in Latin followed by a High Latin Mass where he will sit in choir.

LIFE ON WHEELS: Life On Wheels, a mobile pro-life service provider that works in conjunction with Her Choice, needs client advocates and drivers. Please consider volunteering with Life On Wheels, a medical mobile clinic that provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, resources, and encouragement to women throughout Birmingham. If you have an interest in learning more or serving in this non-profit ministry, serving women, saving babies, and sharing Jesus, please contact Alejandra Lewis (205) 614-1221 or ale@lowironcity.com

MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, John Paul Stepnowski, Andrew Vickery, Hunter Limbaugh, Adam Sellers, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Michael Masny, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, and Dominic Rumore.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$6258 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$625. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 6-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, June 8: 4:00 p.m. † Ronnie Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, June 9: 7:30 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs Scott Donellan (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, June 10 *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs Marc Ayers (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, June 11: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Ava Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Wed, June 12: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Patrick Smith (by the Duvall Family)
Thur, June 13: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Shane Henderson (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, June 14: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Jacob & Melanie Hill Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, June 15: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for the Jonathan & Nicole Zaucha Family (by the Hahn Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for the Pinter Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, June 16: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Meeker Family (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † For the Souls in Purgatory (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Beverly Scroggins, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, 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. Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	Eze 17:22-24, 2Cor 5:6-10, Mk 4:26-34
7:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 8:18-23, Lk 5:1-11
9:00 a.m. Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	Eze 17:22-24, 2Cor 5:6-10, Mk 4:26-34
10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 8:18-23, Lk 5:1-11

Where Our Treasure Is

Despite the clear teaching of Jesus on His Real Presence, a surprising number of Catholics reject what Jesus says and what the Church has always taught regarding the Eucharist. Granted, many of those who do not believe Jesus is present in the Eucharist are probably not attending Mass all that frequently, if at all. It is indisputable that we are witnessing a crisis of faith, and it is not just a Catholic issue. Weekly church attendance once hovered around 75-80% in this country, but that figure has trended down over the last hundred years. Those going to church weekly or almost weekly has dropped to about 40% for protestants and 30% for Catholics according to recent Gallup polling data. That same polling data shows that 50% of American Christians attend Church seldom or never. I suspect that these sad percentages are on the optimistic side. In some parts of the country having Mass attendance at 30% would be a huge and unmistakable increase over the roughly 10% of their registered parishioners that regularly attend. The American population has more than doubled since 1950, but have we doubled the number of our churches? Hardly. And we have fewer Masses offered than we had in 1950 that are more sparsely attended. In 1950 we had over 50,000 Catholic priests in this country, now it is about 33,000 and falling. Our huge priest shortage – we should have about 110,000 today based on our population – is masked by a shortage of people practicing their faith.

So why do we have this crisis of faith? It is clear that we have a culture that is toxic to faith and it is getting more and more toxic every day. We are also prone to materialism, both in terms of being focused on worldly possessions and also in the more technical sense of the word materialism, that being a denial of anything that is not a material or physical reality. That we cannot even agree on the existence of objective truth is an indication of a materialistic mindset. If objective truth does not exist, then objective morality does not exist either. Even scientific truth is up for grabs. Opinions or authoritative fiat replace scientific facts, proof of which can be seen in the recent pandemic. If it cannot be seen, touched, or otherwise experienced by our senses or an instrument, or if it does not correspond to our personal world view, it does not exist. God is not directly subject to our senses or our measurement devices, therefore He does not exist. Jesus could not possibly be present in the Eucharist according to my own eyes, therefore it must be a mere symbol of His Body and Blood.

This leads many people to place their faith in what can be seen or experienced. Some people place their faith in hedonism, which is seen as a lifestyle but truly is a deathstyle. Some place their faith in having power over others, but this too is empty and unsatisfying. Some people place their faith in money. This is really perilous. Today, what is money anyhow? For most people, their wealth is expressed by a bank or brokerage statement. Or a mattress stuffed with cash. Or the equity in their home or other real estate. Or in artwork or collectables. Or in a stash of precious metals. Yes, we can see our bank balance, we can see our cash horde, we see can our various possessions, but what are they truly worth? The value of all of these things is perceived and not absolute.

Indeed, a snot-nosed kid from Belarus can empty your bank or investment account. The government can (and will) devalue currency or it might totally lose its perceived value. Much of the value, and therefore the equity, in a home is based on mere market forces, not an absolute value beyond the shelter and protection it affords. Collectables, jewelry, even gold have value that is perceived and not absolute. If the society falls into chaos and ruin, will an ounce of gold or silver have the same buying power it has today? How many cans of beans will a mint condition, signed Babe Ruth baseball card trade for in a world where people are fighting for survival?

A materialistic mindset, because it focuses on the tangible, seems reasonable until it doesn't. Material things are useful and necessary, but they are hardly enduring. Relying on material objects for meaning or value is useless because they can be taken away or otherwise lost. It is the things we can't see – God, truth, morality, love, etc – that ultimately matter. Why place our trust and our faith in mere material things as opposed to He who created all that is, seen and unseen?

- Fr Booth