

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*June 22nd/June 23rd 2024: Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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. 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 Omer & Ida Hull, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from June 30th to July 6th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of James E. Mickel from July 7th until July 13th.

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.

LAY DOMINICANS: Adult men and women who have been Catholics for at least two years are invited to learn about the Dominican Laity and see if this is where God may be calling you. The pillars of Lay Dominican life center around prayer, study, apostolate (sharing our faith with others in ways appropriate to the laity), and community (monthly meetings on Sunday afternoons in Birmingham). As lay members of the Dominican Order, we are drawn together by the love of St. Dominic, and invite you to consider joining us! To learn more, contact Pam Leverett, chapter president, at pcleverett_66@outlook.com.

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, Dominic Rumore, and Matthew Gagnon.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last weekend was \$5162 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$1425. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 7-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, June 22: 4:00 p.m. † Jerry Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, June 23: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Beth Schwager (by Brian Schwager)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Mary Beth Schwager (by Patrick Schwager)
Mon, June 24 *8:30 a.m. † Becky Mitchell (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, June 25: *8:30 a.m. † Joseph P. Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, June 26: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Sharon Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, June 27: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Catherine Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, June 28: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Jeff Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, June 29: 4:00 p.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, June 30: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Scott Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Joseph Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, 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. 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time Wis 1:13-15;2:23-24, 2Cor 8:7,9,13-15, Mk 5:21-43
7:30 a.m. 6th Sunday After Pentecost Rom 6:3-11, Mk 8:1-9
9:00 a.m. 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time Wis 1:13-15;2:23-24, 2Cor 8:7,9,13-15, Mk 5:21-43
10:45 a.m. 6th Sunday After Pentecost Rom 6:3-11, Mk 8:1-9

The Illusion of Mammon

As mentioned last week, we are hardly as independent as we might imagine or hope to be. For example, what does it mean to be independently wealthy today? It used to be that millionaires were regarded as being filthy rich, but that perception has shifted to billionaires thanks to inflation. In a few generations, it might well be that trillionaires will replace billionaires as the definition of being filthy rich. But there is a difference between being filthy rich and being independently wealthy. To be independently wealthy today hardly requires billions but probably means being worth at least ten million dollars. But even then, some people have assets that are valued in the tens of millions but would hardly be understood as independently wealthy. A farmer in Iowa might have a thousand acres of productive land. If so, that land would be worth between ten and twelve million dollars. That is a bunch of money. And that land can produce something like a million dollars of revenue from corn every year. That is also a bunch of money. But the cost to produce that corn would be about a million dollars, give or take. That farmer seems rich, but he could be just scraping by or even facing bankruptcy despite the large cash flows generated by his farm. In many respects he truly depends on market forces, weather conditions, and a slew of other factors that might bring financial ruin. To make matters worse, it is possible for the government to tax or regulate him out of business.

We might think that a farmer has more security than most if society goes somehow kerflooey. He will at least have the land and possesses the know-how to grow his own food. Many seeds for our food crops, however, are patented by large corporations and it would be illegal for the farmer to withhold seeds from this year's crop for planting next year. Likewise, some of the patented crops produce sterile seeds that would not grow even if the farmer did save some of this year's harvest to plant next year. In other words, the modern farmer is much less independent than we might imagine. His farm is not as sustainable and secure compared to when his grandfather worked the land.

If a farmer is vulnerable because he is dependent on entities and forces beyond his control, if even he might struggle to feed himself and his family in a major disaster, then what about someone living in New York City or Chicago? What would life be like in a 30 or 50 story high-rise apartment building when the utilities stop working? It could not be pretty, likely bringing out the worst in people. Then again, maybe people would rise above the circumstances and behave with respect toward their high-rise neighbors. Maybe.

We don't like to admit that we depend on others. If we fail or refuse to see that we are very much dependent on our fellow man, on the smooth functioning of our economy, on a vulnerable supply chain, and on other animals such as bees that pollinate so much of the food we eat, how likely are we to confess that we ultimately depend upon God? He creates, He provides, He sustains, He governs and regulates. *"Your heavenly Father ... makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust"* (Mt 4:45) whether we know or appreciate His providence. So many people today give credit to random chance, natural selection, even 'Mother Nature,' but can't or won't credit God's activity in the world. This activity is not confined to the past but is ongoing. In the first chapter of Hebrews we read: *"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word"* (Heb 1:1-3). Jesus, the Son, creates all things, possesses all things, and sustains all things. The letter of St Paul to the Colossians echoes this role of Jesus: *"For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together"* (Col 1:16-17). The problem modern man has is that he is serving the wrong master, that being mammon. Mammon – worldly wealth and possessions – cannot be served along with serving God. It is either God or mammon, not both.

- Fr Booth