

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*July 6th/July 7th 2024: 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
7th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**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 James E. Mickel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 7th until July 13th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Julius Lee from July 14th until July 20th.

FR BOOTH VACATION: Fr Booth will be on vacation from July 8th through July 12th. There will be no Masses at Blessed Sacrament Monday through Friday this week.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 2nd in the evening. More details to follow.

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.

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 \$5932 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$50. 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, July 6:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Ben & Annabelle DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Robert C. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, July 7:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Abby DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Will DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Mon, July 8		Private Intention – <i>No Mass at Blessed Sacrament</i>
Tues, July 9:		Private Intention – <i>No Mass at Blessed Sacrament</i>
Wed, July 10:		Private Intention – <i>No Mass at Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thur, July 11:		Private Intention – <i>No Mass at Blessed Sacrament</i>
Fri, July 12:		Private Intention – <i>No Mass at Blessed Sacrament</i>
Sat, July 13:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for the Valencia Family (by Mary Margaret & Michael Hill)
Sun, July 14:	7:30 a.m.	† Joseph Grant Kelly (by Kevin E. Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Diana Ruiz-Hernandez (by Alex Ruiz)

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.	15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Amos 7:12-15, Eph 1:3-14, Mk 6:7-13
7:30 a.m.	8 th Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 8:12-17, Lk 16:1-9
9:00 a.m.	15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Amos 7:12-15, Eph 1:3-14, Mk 6:7-13
10:45 a.m.	8 th Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 8:12-17, Lk 16:1-9

Healthy & Wealthy?

There are some people who are content with the normal progression of life. We are born, we stumble and fumble around this world for 60, 70, or 80 years, and then we die. Then again, mankind has generally hankered for eternal life since the earliest of times. Adam and Eve wanted to be like God, and it is likely that being immortal, being impervious to death, was part of that desire. We see this desire at the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9) where mankind tries to build their way to heaven, to make a name for themselves. They desire to go to heaven on their own terms, to storm heaven and to do so without any reference to God. In fact, they seek heaven in spite of God.

So it should not be a surprise that man is turning more and more to technology to extend our life further and further into the future. Along with that extension of life is the desire to live more and more comfortably and to do so on our own terms. Few people really want to live 120 years if that means spending forty of those years in a nursing home or living forty years having to cope with arthritis, dementia, incontinence, loss of hearing, digestive issues, and a bland diet. No, if it is up to us, we want to live forever in a young body free of any limitations, without considering how life might be in the future. Indeed, if a man was born in 1830 and expected to live 80 years, but was given another 40 years, dying in 1950 instead of 1910, would those extra forty years have lived up to his expectations? The Spanish Flu, World War One, Prohibition, the stock market crash, the Great Depression, World War Two, the Holocaust, the Cold War, and the Korean War make such a choice perhaps dubious. If we were faced with another 40 years, what would life be like then? Better? Worse? Much worse? We assume progress, but that is not guaranteed by any stretch of the imagination.

But instead of looking for a better, more comfortable life by worldly means, what if we sought it through God? What if we wanted God to make our lives better here and now, ignoring the call to take up our crosses, and instead wanting God to make good on Jesus' promise of "*I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly*" (Jn 10:10)? Who would not want to have a more abundant life? Surely that life would be a life virtually without want. Surely that life would be a life without infirmity. Surely Jesus meant this kind of more abundant life here on earth, right? Such logic has given birth to what is often referred to as the health and wealth gospel.

The health and wealth gospel is a fairly new manifestation in Christian belief. The idea is that faith is rewarded with prosperity and physical health, that these are signs of divine blessing. No doubt some prosperous Christians over the last 2,000 years believed their wealth is divinely ordained, as God's blessing upon them. But the actual understanding that God wills all of Jesus's disciples to be well off and healthy is a concept that is a little more than 100 years old, not becoming popular until about 70 years ago. It has led to the material excesses of televangelists, such as having four or five private jets, multi-million dollar mansions, fleets of fancy cars, and living better than rock stars and A-list Hollywood actors. All in God's name. No doubt the Beatitudes are for those less blessed by God.

While this is a new aberration in Christian thought, it is not at all new. The Jews of Jesus' time were convinced that wealth was a sign of divine blessing. Jesus saying "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*" (Mt 5:3) was shocking to those who heard the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' commentary on the Rich Young Man, who went away because he loved his possessions more than God, was also shocking: "*Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.'* When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, '*Who then can be saved?*'" (Mt 19:23-25).

The true Gospel, the full Gospel, has an answer to the question of "*Who then can be saved?*" It is not a matter of being blessed with wealth and health, for Jesus makes it clear that "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven*" (Mt 7:21).

- Fr Booth