

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*July 13th/July 14th 2024: 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
8th 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 Julius Lee, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from July 14th to July 20th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Mary P. Hastings from July 21st until July 27th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, July 20th. 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.

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: Due to Fr Booth's vacation, the collection for July 6th and 7th will be reported next week.

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 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)

Mon, July 15 *8:30 a.m. † Agnes Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)

Tues, July 16: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Maricela Hernandez (by Mallorie Duvall)

Wed, July 17: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Lori Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

Thur, July 18: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Alejandro Ruiz Velazquez (by Mallorie Duvall)

Fri, July 19: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Mike Donellan (by the Donellan Family)

Sat, July 20: 9:15 a.m. Special intention for Beth Mathews (by the Donellan Family)
4:00 p.m. Special intention for Jonah Renda (by the Donellan Family)

Sun, July 21: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Linda Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for the Meeker Family (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. 16 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jer 23:1-6, Eph 2:13-18, Mk 6:30-34
7:30 a.m. 9 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 10:6-13, Lk 19:41-47
9:00 a.m. 16 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jer 23:1-6, Eph 2:13-18, Mk 6:30-34
10:45 a.m. 9 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 10:6-13, Lk 19:41-47

Put on the Lord

Like all aberrations of the faith, the health and wealth gospel endangers those who place their hopes in such a falsification of the one true Gospel. In fact, if one has such confidence that faith is rewarded with good health and superior wealth, then what does that mean to the woman who is diagnosed with cancer at an earlier age than normal or for a man whose business fails because he was defrauded by a business partner or because the government chose to regulate his industry out of existence? Is the cancer or the business failure caused by a lack of faith? Is it because Jesus does not keep His promises? If the woman got cancer later in life, or if the man's business is very successful at first but later languishes, does that mean that their faith has diminished? We all eventually die, but is death a sign of a lack of faith when one believes in the health and wealth gospel? Such false beliefs are ultimately corrosive to faith and puts souls in dire jeopardy.

How do people get to the point of putting their hopes in a false or impoverished or even an imitation gospel? It is because we want things our way, it is because we want to make short cuts, it is because we want to be liked and accepted, it is because we don't want to offend, it is because we live in a faithless and depraved culture, and it is because pastors have failed to push back against the various forces at odds with the Gospel. For example, if we took a Christian of whatever denomination and brought him 100 years into the future to what is being practiced and preached today, would he recognize the faith? Chances are, the answer is a resounding No. Yes, he would likely appreciate padded pews and air conditioning, but what is he to think of the ugly churches we have built, the rock-n-roll bands that have supplanted a well versed choir accompanied by an organ, what passes for Sunday best clothes, and the increasingly empty pews? He would probably conclude that the milquetoast and mediocre homily or sermon has much to do with the ugly churches, empty pews, etc.

Would he be correct? Yes and no. All of the unfortunate differences he would note are symptoms of a deeper problem. Yes, the preaching from the pulpit is a definite factor, but the priest or pastor got to the point of preaching poorly because he has become estranged from the Word of God. Likewise, the people in the pew have also become less well versed in the verses of Scripture. The cleric gets there partially in the modern seminary where his professors of the Old and New Testaments don't seem to have faith. One of my professors, a priest, quipped that 'all of the things in the Bible are true and some of them actually happened.' Really? Really, really? Most academic scholars of the Bible treat the Word of God as a mere literary work, a work of ancient human writers. It is little wonder that a joke has circulated among seminarians for decades: What is the difference between a mafioso and a Scripture scholar? The mafioso believes in God. Ouch!

Saint Jerome, who translated the Hebrew and Greek of the Bible into Latin in AD 382, observed that 'Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.' Ignorance of Christ implies an ignorance of His Gospel, and where there is a vacuum, invariably something comes along to fill the void. This is how we ended up with the vengeful God of fundamentalism and the hippy dippy Jesus of the 1970s. This is why some portray Jesus as effeminate, or as an environmentalist, or as a political revolutionary, or as a feminist, or as a communist, or as a social worker, and so on. They project themselves or their desires on Jesus when we are called to become like He is. We are called to "*Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh*" (Rom 13:14). Putting on Christ is not easy.

Jesus never said it would be. It all boils down to embracing the truth. I am a sinner, you are a sinner, and we all need a Savior. Not one of our choosing, not one that conforms to our self-image, politics, fears and aspirations, but One that has chosen us. "*And do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy*" (Rom 13:11-13).

- Fr Booth