

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*January 11th/January 12th 2025: Baptism of the Lord (English)
Holy Family (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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Neal Tallie, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 12th to January 18th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Avery Brouard from January 19th until January 25th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, January 18th. 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 low 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.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2025: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

THANK YOU: The families that benefited from our Angel Tree this past Advent wish to thank all involved. Many thanks indeed.

FIRST COMMUNION: We tentatively scheduled our First Communion on March 30th, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be announced.

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP ON EWTN: EWTN Live will host a discussion with Fr Mitch Pacwa and Dr. Anthony Rizzi regarding new insights into the meaning, purpose, and types of love and friendship. The show will air on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m CT.

PRO-LIFE MASS & RALLY: There will be pro-life Mass at the Cathedral of St Paul on Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 a.m. followed by a prayer vigil and witness for life at 10:45 a.m. at the Birmingham Planned Parenthood located at 1019 1st Ave. North.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$28,035 and thus exceeding our goal.

PERPETUAL ADORATION: Our Lady of Sorrows in Homewood is inviting people to come and adore our Lord in the Eucharist. They have had 24/7/365 Eucharistic Adoration for over 30 years. If you are interested in adoring Jesus in the Eucharist, please contact Bo Lovell at (205) 965-3041.

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, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$10,466 and \$1450 was given for the Preservation Fund. 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, Jan 11:	4:00 p.m.	† Piero Cenni
Sun, Jan 12:	7:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Maddie Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Mon, Dec 13	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for James Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)
Tues, Dec 14:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Cameron Gagnon (by the Gagnon Family)
Wed, Jan 15:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Thomas Rumore (by the Gagnon Family)
Thur, Jan 16:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for David Newman (by the Gagnon Family)
Fri, Jan 17:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Stephen Rumore (by the Gagnon Family)
Sat, Jan 18:	9:15 a.m.	Special intention for Blaise Hahn (by the Gagnon Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Mary Shields (by Monica Duvall)
Sun, Jan 19:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Phil McReynolds (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Paris Duvall (by the Duvall Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Grace Hill, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Phillip McCarty, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Debbie Booth, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, 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. Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 62:1-5, 1Cor 12:4-11, Jn 2:1-11
7:30 a.m. Second Sunday After Epiphany	Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 62:1-5, 1Cor 12:4-11, Jn 2:1-11
10:45 a.m. Second Sunday After Epiphany	Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11

Jesus' Baptism is an Epiphany

Last words are usually important. For some, their last words are spoken on their deathbed while others' last word is expressed in their will. The will might surprise the deceased's heirs in any number of ways. One or more children might be left out altogether or a prized possession – jewelry, a piece of furniture, a beloved antique, etc. – might go to someone who least desired the item. Sadly, others die without last words (or words that no one was there to hear) and without a will.

Jesus had both last words and, in a certain way, a last will. That last will would be the New Testament ultimately authored by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles and their associates. Jesus' last words were not those uttered from the cross but the various things He said to the Apostles after His resurrection until His ascension into heaven. Most of what Jesus said to the Apostles in those forty days prior to His ascension were not explicitly written down. But those words that were recorded and that were expressed just before Jesus ascended certainly carry significant importance. Matthew's Gospel gives a clear account of Jesus' last words in what is often called the Great Commission: "*All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age*" (Mt 28:18-20). These certainly sound like marching orders for the Apostles and ultimately the Church. But we also see delegation of power and authority. The Father delegated all power to Jesus and Jesus delegated authority to the Apostles to teach His commandments and the power to make disciples.

We might think that becoming disciples is mostly our choice. Yes, there is a matter of choosing to follow Jesus or not. It is in our power to accept or reject the graces and terms of discipleship, but is it simply up to us as to whether or not we become disciples in the first place? We can look at the Apostles to answer this question. Jesus made it clear to them that "*It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you*" (Jn 15:16). Likewise, we hear Jesus say "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me*" (Rev 3:20). Thus discipleship stems from divine initiative.

But didn't Jesus delegate power to the Apostles to make disciples? How can that power be delegated to mere men – the Apostles and their successors – but remain a divine initiative? Ultimately, the answer lies in the Holy Spirit. Quite simply, baptism confers the Holy Spirit. This is seen in Jesus' own baptism where the Holy Spirit descends upon Him in the form of a dove. Given that Jesus is the eternal Word who has been in perfect loving communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit from all eternity, He hardly needed to receive the Holy Spirit because He lacked a relationship with either the Father or the Spirit. Nor did the reception of the Holy Spirit make Jesus holier or make up for anything lacking in His human or divine nature. Likewise, the voice of the Father at Jesus' baptism, "*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased*" (Lk 3:22), did not make Jesus something He already wasn't: He is the Son from all eternity and He is already thoroughly pleasing to the Father. What the descent of the Holy Spirit and the declaration of the Father signify in Jesus' baptism is the divine power delegated to the Apostles and their successors: making "*disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*"

Despite Jesus' own words, "*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned*" (Mk 16:16), some insist that baptism is unnecessary and symbolic. They will point to those whose faith preceded their baptism or the Good Thief. Nevertheless, Peter refers to Noah and the flood, saying "*This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*" (1Pet 3:21). We can also say that Jesus' baptism prefigures our own where we became pleasing sons and daughters of the Father by adoption and we received the Holy Spirit. -Fr Booth