

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> / March 30<sup>th</sup> 2025: Fourth Sunday of Lent**



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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 Cynthia Broussard, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Fr Mark Beard from April 6<sup>th</sup> until April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** First Communion will be this Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at the 10:45 Mass.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

**FIRST FRIDAY:** We will have our First Friday English Mass on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Altar server training and Martha and Mary Altar Sodality will follow Mass.

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

**GOLF FORE LIFE:** The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Highland Park Golf Course. Highland Golf Course is a great course and fun for golfers of all skill levels. Please come play golf and help raise money for Her Choice, a pro-life pregnancy resource center. Tee-off will be at 9:00 a.m. and box lunches will be available afterwards. The cost is \$250 (\$125 of which is tax deductible) per individual golfer and prizes will be awarded immediately following the tournament. Questions can be directed to Jim Pinto at [Golf4life@herchoicebirmingham.org](mailto:Golf4life@herchoicebirmingham.org). Please register at <https://www.herchoicebirmingham.org/gfl/form.htm> by May 10th.

**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, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. You can return your pledge card or pledge via [catholiccharitiesbhm.org](http://catholiccharitiesbhm.org). Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$28,885 and thus exceeding our goal.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last week was \$4967 and \$375 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is about an 8-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Mar 29:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Ryan & Clarissa Gaudet (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Mar 30:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Thom Price (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Peter Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Mar 31	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jackson Mackin (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Apr 1:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mike & Wendy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Apr 2:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Blount Family (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Apr 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie & Allison Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Apr 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
	6:30 p.m.	† Ma Guadalupe Marinez Mata (by the Trusler Family)
Sat, Apr 5:	8:30 a.m.	† Ma Teresa Castillo Mata (by the Trusler Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Sister Emilie Schmitt, OSB (by Julie Bryant)
Sun, Apr 6:	7:30 a.m.	† Danny Andrews (by the Hall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Lucrecia Hall (by Alysa Tyler)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Grace Hill, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, 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. Fifth Sunday of Lent	Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11
7:30 a.m. First Passion Sunday	Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59
9:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent	Isa 43:16-21, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11
10:45 a.m. First Passion Sunday	Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59

## ***Your Brother was Dead and Has Come to Life Again***

Most choices we make during a given day are fairly trivial. But there are decisions that are serious. Sadly, many people today take many major decisions as lightly as deciding whether to have cream or sugar in their coffee or what shoes they should wear. The more momentous questions in our lives must be preceded by prayer and discernment. We can afford to be a bit whimsical and capricious about many decisions in life, but those weighty decisions demand to be taken seriously. Part of taking them seriously is praying over the decision. Prayer helps us to realize exactly how serious the decision is and how the choice will affect our future. There are some decisions that can be changed if things don't work out, but other decisions are final with no turning back. We see such an example when Joshua led the Chosen People into the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the desert. Once they celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land, "*on that same day after the Passover, on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan*" (Josh 5:11-12). They could not return to the desert and expect to be fed with manna. They were now committed.

Whenever things got tough in the desert, the people clamored to return to Egypt. Turning back to Egypt would have been devastating, returning to the cruel slavery of their past, ultimately choosing suffering and death. Having taken possession of the Promised Land, there is no turning back to wandering in the desert: returning to the desert also meant death.

As they wandered in the desert, they let their empty stomachs, parched throats, and desire for a varied diet govern their thinking. They were not thinking clearly nor were they praying. The same could be said of the Prodigal Son. Is he clearly thinking about his decision to leave his father's house? Has he prayed over this decision? Nope. Like the Jews in the desert, he is willing to trade everything to satisfy his lower appetites. He craved false freedom, exotic food, copious wine, and shameless women: all those things that were not allowed in his father's house.

The Prodigal Son has declared his father to be dead. This is one of those decisions from which there is no turning back. The father hardly approves of what the son is doing, but he respects the son's freedom to declare their relationship to be dead. The son has no further claim on the wealth or the mercy of the father. He knows this, and he hopes that he might be allowed to be one of his father's servants after he hits rockbottom. He can't march back into his father's house as if nothing has happened. Yet, when he returns, the father accepts him back as a son, not a servant. This is one of those momentous decisions, and we could hardly expect the father to forgive his wayward son if he had not prayed over the situation. The son has no right to be accepted back as a laborer let alone to be reinstated as a son. Through the mercy of the father, the son gets a do-over. A cosmic do-over.

We might think that the father unconditionally takes his wayward son back. This is not so. First of all, the son had to decide that he has made a momentous mistake. Next, he has to return to his father and say "*Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.*" Lastly, the Prodigal Son must accept the code of behavior set down by his father.

Would the father have killed the fatted calf, brought out the finest robe, and put a ring on the son's finger if he had returned with a band of minstrels singing vulgar songs, if the son had returned with a prostitute on each arm, or if the son came home drunk as a skunk? Had the son not confessed his sinfulness, had he not declared his unworthiness to be the father's son, and had he not left his sinful ways behind him the father would not have reinstated him as a son.

The same goes with God the Father. If we declare Him to be dead through mortal sin, spiritually we are wallowing with the swine and are spiritually separated from His house. If we do not repent, confess our sins, and declare our unworthiness, we cannot expect to be reinstated as God's sons and daughters. So we have a choice. Choosing to accept God's offer for a cosmic do-over by repenting, confessing, and obeying is the most monumental decision of our lives.

- Fr Booth