

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 5th / April 6th 2025: Fifth Sunday of Lent (English)

First Passion Sunday (Latin)



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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 Fr Mark Beard, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from April 6th to April 12th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of George Lally, Sr. from April 13th until April 19th.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 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 18th it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

PALM SUNDAY: Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Due to time constraints, for the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Palm Sunday the abbreviated Gospel will be used, the palms will be previously blessed, and there will be no procession. Also, the 10:45 Mass will be a Low Mass.

ST ELIAS FUN RUN & FOOD FESTIVAL: St Elias Maronite Catholic Church is hosting a charity fun run – 5k, 1 mile, and sleep in – on Saturday, April 26th at 8:00 a.m. More info on the fun run can be obtained at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Birmingham/Cedar5K>. More info on the Food Festival can be found at <https://stelias.org/festival/>

GOLF FORE LIFE: The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament – a scramble format – will be played on Friday, May 16th 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. 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. 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 \$7063 and \$585 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, 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)
Mon, Apr 7	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Margaret Masney (by Monica Duvall)
Tues, Apr 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Chris Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
Wed, Apr 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Benedict Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
Thur, Apr 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie & Allison Rumore (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Apr 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Paul Pohorelsky (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Apr 12:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for the Pohorelsky Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Apr 13`:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Fernandes Family (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for the JA & MA Jimenez Family (by the Hahn Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Katherine Dunham, 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. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Lk 22:14-23:56
7:30 a.m. Palm Sunday	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 27:45-52
9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Lk 22:14-23:56
10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 26:36-27:60

Let Us Beset the Just One, Because He is Obnoxious to Us

Sometimes you read something and discover a connection. It may have started with no intention of being connected to the other thing, but once the connection is made, it is difficult to disconnect the two things. For example, the Book of Wisdom, a book considered to be Scripture by the Jews living in Egypt at the time of Christ (we have to remember that the Jews did not have a consensus on which books were or were not Scripture until well after Jesus), has a passage that seems to be fulfilled in Jesus' life. Specifically, "*Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. He professes to have knowledge of God and styles himself a child of the Lord. To us he is the censure of our thoughts; merely to see him is a hardship for us, because his life is not like that of others, and different are his ways. He judges us debased; he holds aloof from our paths as from things impure. He calls blest the destiny of the just and boasts that God is his Father*" (Wis 2:12-16). This could easily apply to anyone who is righteous and strives to do the will of God. Indeed, the ways of the righteous are opposed almost infallibly by the unjust. What ought to grab our attention is that last phrase, boasting that God is his Father. This might apply to almost any Christian who is made an adopted son or daughter of the Father through baptism, but Jesus is the Son of the Father in the truest and strictest sense.

Nevertheless, these verses describe quite accurately the attitude held by the scribes, priests, Pharisees, and Sadducees toward Jesus. He openly challenged them for their hypocrisy and their corruption. "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. But these you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean*" (Mt 23:23-26). Many other instances can be cited where Jesus sets Himself against their doings, reproaches them for transgressions of the law, and charges them with violations of their training.

The passage from Wisdom continues "*Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him. For if the just one be the son of God, he will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. With revilement and torture let us put him to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him*" (Wis 2:17-20). The chief priests and the scribes mock Jesus while He is on the cross, saying "*He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God'*" (Mt 27:43). The thieves and passersby likewise challenge and mock Jesus.

An even stronger prefiguration of the Passion of Jesus is to be found in Psalm 22. This psalm has a man lamenting being persecuted: "*But I am a worm, not a man, scorned by men, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at me: 'He relied on the Lord – let him deliver him; if he loves him, let him rescue him'*" (Ps 22:7-9). "*Dogs surround me; a pack of evildoers closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and my feet I can count all my bones. They stare at me and gloat; they divide my garments among them; for my clothing they cast lots*" (Ps 22:17-19). It is important to note that this psalm, a psalm of David, predates the practice of crucifixion by as many as 500 years, so the reference to piercing hands and feet merely sounds like something unpleasant until the crucifixion of Jesus truly turns Psalm 22 into a prophecy. This fact was hardly lost on Jesus. It is impossible not to notice that the opening verse of this psalm is unmistakably fulfilled by Jesus during His crucifixion: "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" (Ps 22:2, Mt 27:46, Mk 15:34).