

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

October 25th/October 26th 2025: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)

Christ the King (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.

NOTICE ON CHECKS: Please make out all checks to Blessed Sacrament or Blessed Sacrament Church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Therese Gagnon, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from October 26th to November 1st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen & Jack Schauer from November 2nd until November 8th.

MEMORIALS FOR THE DECEASED: This year the memorials for the deceased will be offered collectively over a novena of Masses held on November 3rd through the 11th.

ALL SAINTS: All Saints Day, November 1st, falls on a Saturday this year and is therefore not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nevertheless, there will be a High Latin Mass on November 1st at 10:45 a.m. The normal First Saturday Mass and activities will not occur in November.

ALL SOULS DAY: All Souls is celebrated in English on Sunday, November 2nd. In Latin, however, it is transferred to Monday, November 3rd. There will be a High Mass in Latin on Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

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

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The keynote speaker will be Joy Pinto, executive director of Her Choice. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women’s Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$4783, \$910 was given for the Preservation Fund, and \$1581 was donated for the World Missions. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Pledge Card in the mail, if not you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of October 24th, we have \$21,050 pledged.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is an 8½ month backlog on Mass Intentions and the backlog continues to grow. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. Period. No exceptions.

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

Sat, Oct 25:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Mr. & Mrs. David Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Oct 26:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Agnes Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Teresa Dacar (by Alan & Pam Olson)
Mon, Oct 27	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Jeff & Leigh Baumbach Family (by the Hall Family)
Tues, Oct 28:	*8:30 a.m.	† George Lowndes Williams (by the Hall Family)
Wed, Oct 29:	*8:30 a.m.	† George Lowndes Williams (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Oct 30:	*8:30 a.m.	† Rev William Scroggins (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Oct 31:	*8:30 a.m.	† Molly Deblois (by Mary Jane Kelly)
Sat, Nov 1:	10:45 a.m.	† Beverly Scroggins (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Faithful Departed
Sun, Nov 2:	7:30 a.m.	† Agnes Zimmer (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† J.C. Cooper, Jr. (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Fr Timothy Gahan, George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, 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, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, 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. All Souls	Wis 3:1-9, Rom 5:5-11, Jn 6:37-40
7:30 a.m. 21 st Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 6:10-17, Mt 18:23-35
9:00 a.m. All Souls	Wis 3:1-9, Rom 5:5-11, Jn 6:37-40
10:45 a.m. 21 st Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 6:10-17, Mt 18:23-35

Atonement

So, over the last few weeks justification has been discussed, perhaps *ad nauseam*. In any case, the argument for justification by faith alone cannot be supported by Scripture or by logic. Some with faith can and will be condemned in the end. Such people might well have deep faith, faith so as to move mountains (1Cor 13:2), but that is not sufficient. They can be undone before God because of their works, by sins of commission (deliberately chosen sinful acts) and by sins of omission (deliberately choosing to neglect the charitable duties of a disciple). It must also be remembered that it is not a matter of doing more good than evil as if good works cancel out our sins. Every sin, even venial sin, is an offense before an infinite divine being: finite beings that we are, we cannot of ourselves provide an infinite recompense to offset our offenses against God. Indeed, we must abide in Christ and produce the works of a disciple. *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love”* (Jn 15:5-10). Thus, we can be grafted into Christ but be pruned off for lack of fruit. This is why St Paul talks about *“the obedience of faith”* (Rom 1:5, and 15:18) and the primacy of love even over faith (1Cor 13:13). Faithful but fruitless is not a formula for salvation.

Indeed, we are called to be righteous (1Pet 1:14-16). Our righteousness is meant to be expressed in everything we do. It is not a borrowed or imputed righteousness, but actual righteousness. Again, this cannot be done based on our own merits as if we could become righteous by our own efforts. Ultimately, the grace of abiding in Jesus so as to produce good fruit and the Holy Spirit abiding in us makes us righteous in the eyes of God. Righteousness is not imputed but comes from being Christ-like and possessing the Holy Spirit.

But what about our sins? None of us is sinless and few of us go all that long without committing a sin of some sort. How are our sins reconciled with God is called atonement. Jesus made atonement for us on the cross. How this actually happened, how the cross makes amends for our sins is viewed quite differently by Christians. Those who deny that we have to strive for righteousness but we are made righteous by imputation, that Jesus stands in for us as the accused in a courtroom proceeding, usually believe the same sort of substitution of Jesus for us on the cross. In this way of thinking the Father takes out His wrath, the wrath we earn by our sins, upon Jesus. This is problematic on multiple levels. Firstly, does God have control of His wrath, does His wrath have to be expressed? After all, God does not send the unrepentant to hell – they send themselves – nor does He orchestrate the suffering of the souls in hell. Their suffering in hell provides zero satisfaction. Likewise, thinking that Jesus’ suffering merely satisfies the Father’s wrath makes the Father out to be petty, vindictive, and unjust by punishing the most Innocent for the sake of the guilty.

Jesus’ atonement for our sins is described by St Paul’s teaching in the letter to the Hebrews. *“Surely [Jesus] did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham; therefore, he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people”* (Heb 2:16-17). Thus, Jesus atoned for our sins in a priestly act. He is both Priest and Victim. John the Baptist’s testimony, *“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”* (Jn 1:29), signifies that Jesus’ death on the cross was a sacrificial offering. It was also a voluntary offering: *“This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father”* (Jn 10:17-18). - Fr Booth