

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 14th/March 15st: Fourth Sunday of Lent



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840**

**E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
Website: www.myblessedsacrament.org**

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 Bessie K. Lawrence, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from March 15th to March 21st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Walter Roberts from March 22nd until March 28th.

REST IN PEACE: Fr Patrick O'Donoghue, retired priest of the diocese, passed away on March 10th. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

REST IN PEACE: Fr Larry Shinnick, retired priest of the diocese, passed away on March 13th. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the third Sunday of the month. Since we have First Communion today, there will be no third Sunday social and no vocations prayers following the 10:45 Mass.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH: The Feast of St Joseph is on Thursday, March 19th. There will be a High Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m.

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 3rd it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, March 21st. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., concluding with a Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION for local homeschool students is set for Thursday, May 21st, 2026. The ceremony will be in the Great Hall on the campus of the Cathedral of St. Paul and will begin with Vespers at 5:00 p.m. More information can be obtained via bhamcathgrad@gmail.com or to register, please visit <https://bhamcathgrad.weebly.com/>

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 \$7591 and \$685 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is large backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. No exceptions. The Mass Intentions for this week date from May 25th.

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

Sat, Mar 21:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Adrian Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Mar 22:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Max Cook (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Mar 16:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Juan & Denise Jimenez (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Mar 17:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Grace Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Mar 18:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Thomas Rumore (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Mar 19:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Alyssa Tyler (by the Donellan Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Special intention for Ann Marie Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Mar 20:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Kaitlyn Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
Sat, Mar 21:	9:15 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Chuck Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
Sun, Mar 22:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Hannah Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Kim McCain (by the Ferino Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, George Sampedro, Jesse Hernandez, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, 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, 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. 5 th Sunday of Lent	Ez 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45
7:30 a.m. First Passion Sunday	Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59
9:00 a.m. 5 th Sunday of Lent	Ez 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45
10:45 a.m. First Passion Sunday	Heb 9:11-15, Jn 8:46-59

Jesus, the Suffering Servant

The first Suffering Servant Song, Isaiah 42:1-4, portrays the Messiah in ways that were not expected among the people of Israel during Jesus' life. They expected a military leader much like King David. There was also a belief that the Messiah would be a prophet like Moses, law-giver and liberator. Isaiah 42:1-4, however, describes a meek and modest Servant who would bring justice to the nations, to the gentiles, delivering God's law to them. Even though Jeremiah prophesied that there would be a new covenant (Jer 31:31-34), a covenant where the law would be written on the human heart, they failed to see that this new covenant would supplant the Mosaic covenant. They also failed to see that this new covenant would extend beyond the borders of the Holy Land, transcending the Chosen People.

The second Suffering Servant Song, Isaiah 49:1-6, also is difficult to square with contemporary expectations of the Messiah. It is even argued by some that this song identifies the Servant as the nation of Israel, not the Messiah:

"Listen to me, O coastlands, and hearken, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God.' And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength – he says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'"

Yes, it does say the servant is Israel, but it also says that the Servant will restore Jacob and Israel (Jacob was renamed Israel by God, so Jacob and Israel are the same) as if the Servant was not Israel. So, is the servant Jacob/Israel as a nation or is the Servant an individual, a man who can refer to Himself as I? It is possible that the servant was the nation of Israel in one sense and an individual in another sense. In one sense, the nation of Israel could say *"I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God."* They were called to convert the nations but utterly failed. Centuries of Judaism and it spread essentially nowhere. Yes, there were Jews all through the Mediterranean region and beyond primarily because of deportation and emigration, not because of successful proselytization.

However, when it reads *"And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him"* this speaks of an individual. As mentioned earlier, it makes no sense to say that the nation of Israel brought the nation of Israel back to God in the same way that it makes no sense to say that we can reconcile ourselves with God all by ourselves. Likewise, this second Suffering Servant Song mentions that God *"made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away."* At what point did the nation of Israel become hidden? Yes, they were exiled to Babylon, but could such exile be properly described as being in the shadow of God's hand or being placed as an arrow in God's quiver? This sounds much more like a period of time when the Servant was out of the public eye as opposed to being punished as the Jews were while they were in exile.

Jesus was out of the public eye most of His life, basically from the time He was presented in the Temple until He began His ministry, with the only exception being the finding of Jesus in the Temple when He was 12 years old. Then again, that was hardly a public event where it is clear who Jesus actually is. And when it comes to being *"a light to the nations,"* Jesus Himself proclaims *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (Jn 8:12). Thus, Jesus is the only one that fulfills the prophecy of the first and second Suffering Servant Songs.

-Fr Booth