

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 27<sup>th</sup> / April 28<sup>th</sup> 2024: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (English)  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Easter (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. If you wish to join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

**IN MEMORIAM:** For Ann Roberts, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Clement Muck from May 5<sup>th</sup> until May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection this weekend for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, supporting mission churches throughout the country.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** We will have our First Friday English Mass on May 3<sup>rd</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. Candles will be blessed prior to the Latin Mass.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Altar server training and Martha & 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 17<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 (205) 447-8796 or Her Choice at (205) 252-0706. Please register at <http://www.herchoicebirmingham.org/gfl/form.htm> by May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION:** We are planning on having Confirmation later this year at a date that is to be determined. The bishop has offered to confirm using the new rite in Latin followed by a High Latin Mass where he will sit in choir.

**MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS** for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last weekend was \$6258 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$1200. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

**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, and Dominic Rumore.

**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, Apr 27: 4:00 p.m. † Cassie Payne (by Helen Brandley)  
Sun, Apr 28: 7:30 a.m. † Albert Parker Forcer (Poppy) (by Helen Brandley)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. † Joy Martin (by the Donellan Family)  
Mon, Apr 29 \*8:30 a.m. † Charlene Cooper (by the Donellan Family)  
Tues, Apr 30: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Hannah Meeker (by the Donellans)  
Wed, May 1: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Becky Mitchel (by the Donellan Family)  
Thur, May 2: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Peter & Sharon Gagnon (by the Donellan Family)  
Fri, May 3: \*8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Anna Pohorelsky (by the Donellan Family)  
6:30 p.m. Special Intention for Dominic Rumore (by the Donellan Family)  
Sat, May 4: 8:30 a.m. Special Intention for Philip Cook (by the Donellan Family)  
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for Margaret Hahn (by the Donellan Family)  
Sun, May 5: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for Margaret Roth (by the Donellan Family)  
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo  
10:45 a.m. Special Intention Anne Catherine Craig (by the Charlotte & Terry Rumore Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Deacon Walter Henderson, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Beverly Scroggins, William Scroggins, 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**

8:00 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48, 1Jn 4:7-10, Jn 15:9-17  
7:30 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter James 1:22-27, Jn 16:23-30  
9:00 a.m. 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48, 1Jn 4:7-10, Jn 15:9-17  
10:45 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter James 1:22-27, Jn 16:23-30

## *What Is Wrong With People?*

This question could be asked at any time from the dawn of man until the end of time. A father might observe the behavior of his adult son and wonder where he and his wife went wrong. We could ask how it was possible for the Egyptian, Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires to have more colorblind societies, where skin color was hardly an issue, whereas modern man cannot seem to escape the racial problems that never get resolved in any meaningful way. We could ask how it is possible that Harvey Weinstein could have abused so many actresses for nearly 50 years, amassing more than 80 known victims, especially when his behavior was common knowledge in the entertainment industry. We could ask how so many bishops ignored the abuse of so many children, or how Joe Paterno and others overlooked an assistant coach that abused children for at least 15 years. No matter how good a producer, no matter how good a priest, and no matter how good a coach they might have been could not possibly justify such willful negligence. Again, what is wrong with people?

The same question applies to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. After the unspeakable atrocities committed on October 7<sup>th</sup>, how could anyone expect Israel not to respond? It must also be remembered that this is no minor squabble given that Hamas has pledged to exterminate every Jew in the state of Israel. It is not a dispute over territory or over political control but a true genocidal crusade on the part of the supporters of Hamas. The Israelis have no such genocidal appetite despite being accused of carrying out a genocide against the people who desire genocide upon the Jews. If the state of Israel really wanted to kill everyone in Gaza, they could have done so in a matter of a month or two.

So how do we go from the atrocities inflicted on one population and the desire for extermination of that population to the victims being blamed for atrocities and genocide? Even better, why do we see American college students of non-middle eastern ancestry siding with Hamas and calling for the extermination of the Jews? How, after less than 100 years, did antisemitism become so common among American elites in politics, the media, and academia even while there are still nearly 250,000 Holocaust survivors living today? These same elites happily condemn white supremacists for antisemitism while being equally or even more antisemitic than the people they condemn. Again, what is wrong with people?

Quite simply, sin and hatred can be utterly confounding. Sin, especially when it leads to or flows from hatred, can greatly blind us to the point that we fail to see hypocrisy and self-contradiction. How could middle and upper class American students who side with antisemitic promoters of genocide think that they are promoting justice? How could self avowed proponents of feminism push behaviors that are absolutely contrary to the best interests of women?

That feminists support and promote promiscuity, abortion, childlessness, careerism, men pretending to be women, women pretending to be men, etc. can be laid at the feet of secularism and the human need to find purpose in life. The cause of feminism, or any other -ism, can give meaning to life apart from proper religion, even to the point that the cause essentially becomes a religion complete with idols, dogmas, and high priests. In the case of antisemitic students siding with atrocities and genocide, this also represents a cause that gives purpose. Feeding the young on a constant stream of doom and gloom calamities – covid, global warming, student debt, inflation, out of reach home ownership, etc. – has made for a perceived future that seems utterly hopeless. Most of these anxious youth do not have religion to keep things in perspective. Without religion they have no purpose and they have little to no hope. Finding a cause – even a bad one – can alleviate that angst. To a point.

Knowing our purpose – ‘to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven’ (Baltimore Catechism 1, #6) – is absolutely clarifying. Truly, only God can give our lives absolute meaning, and apart from Him, we will seek meaning in all sorts of odd and inappropriate places. Indeed, what is wrong with people – all of us – is that without God, His teachings, and His promises we will seek to find meaning apart from our Creator only to find deep misery. - Fr Booth