

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Sept 17th/Sept 18th 2022: 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

15th Sunday After Pentecost (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 to Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 7:00 a.m. Wednesday and Friday, 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, to aid in the 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 at the Religious Goods Counter located in the vestibule of the front entrance.

IN MEMORIAM: In memory of Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 18th until September 24th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Shack Pruitt from September 25th until October 1st.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

FR BOOTH ON RETREAT: Fr Booth, along with all the priests of the diocese, will be on retreat from Monday, September 19th through Friday, September 23rd. There will be no daily Masses during this week.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Eric Johnston, a local pro-life attorney. 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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received or soon receive a letter and a pledge card from the diocese. Our pledge goal this year is \$20,000. Almost all money raised through this annual appeal remains within the diocese.

A NEW SISTER!: Please welcome Sr Brisa to the parish. She joins Sr Luz, Sr Liz, Sr Melonie, and Sr Isabel. Sr Brisa, along with the friars and other sisters that have so generously served the poor, will no doubt be a blessing to the parish.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Daniel Sessions, 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, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7571 and \$675 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

2022 HIGH MASS SCHEDULE: The High Mass schedule for the 10:45 a.m. Mass is as follows: Every Sunday with the addition of All Saints Day (Tuesday, November 1st), and Immaculate Conception (Thursday, December 8th).

LOW MASS ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 16th: The 10:45 Mass on October 16th will be a Low Mass due to a projected shortage of altar servers.

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

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

Sat, Sept 17:	9:15 a.m.	† Tim Nott (by Doug Duvall)
	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Sheila Muck (by Alice Muck)
Sun, Sept 18:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Diane McReynolds (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Dale Bell (by the Duvall Family)
Mon, Sept 19:	Retreat	† Mike Smith (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Sept 20:	Retreat	† Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Sept 21:	Retreat	Special Intention for Jeff & Catherine Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Thur, Sept 22:	Retreat	Special Intention for Jonathan & Nicole Zaucha (by the Donellan Family)
Fri, Sept 23:	Retreat	Special Intention for Sandra Smith (by the Donellan Family)
Sat, Sept 24:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for the Patrick Rumore Family (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Sept 25:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Philomena Guadet (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Birmingham Fraternal Chapter (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Michael Nolan Griffin, Sam Montalbano, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Aaron Minjares, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Nicole Copeland, Linda Cooper, Lee Dinan, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Paul Herrmann, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, George Dunham, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m.	26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Amos 6:1,4-7, 1Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31
7:30 a.m.	16 th Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11
9:00 a.m.	26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Amos 6:1,4-7, 1Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31
10:45 a.m.	16 th Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11

We Are Insignificant Yet Have Great Significance

No matter how big the universe is or is not, what is seen from the naked eye remains impressive especially when observed far away from city lights, and it is even more impressive when seen from high altitudes. The Milky Way visually stuns on a crisp, cold night on a mountaintop. As a result, a thousand years before Christ, King David could write “*The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands. Day unto day pours forth speech; night unto night whispers knowledge. There is no speech, no words; their voice is not heard; A report goes forth through all the earth, their messages, to the ends of the world*” (Ps 19:2-5). As a shepherd, David no doubt pondered the night sky just as many people in the ancient world did, only seeing perhaps 40,000-50,000 heavenly bodies with the naked eye. The human eye can see nine or so galaxies that happen to look just like stars, more than 40,000 stars, and five of the nine (yes, nine) wandering planets. This represents nothing compared to what we now know to be in the universe, and yet David was not wrong in saying “*The heavens declare the glory of God.*”

David, many before him, and many after him would have understood the various heavenly bodies as rotating around the earth, that the universe moved while the earth remained stationary. That the earth indeed moves and is not the center of the universe is neither here nor there. The center of the universe, from the pre-scientific perspective, was not considered a special or privileged place as many people assume today. Hell was understood to be at the very center of everything, the earth above hell, the skies above the earth, and the heavens above the skies. People believed that the further away from the center, the greater the perfection. As an artifact of this ancient worldview, people still refer to heaven as being upward and hell being downward.

We now know that the center of the earth is a pretty hellish place, but since the earth is not eternal, the center of the earth cannot be hell. About 500 years ago, Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler realized that earth moved around the sun and therefore wrongly made the sun the center of the universe largely because they could not have known that the stars were the same as the sun, just much much farther away. Yes, the center of the sun is an even more hellish place than the center of the earth, but hell is not located there for the same reason it is not at the center of the earth. While the earth and then the sun were dethroned as the center of creation, this does not negate the fact that “*The heavens declare the glory of God.*”

While earth occupies an unimpressive place in the Milky Way and the Milky Way has no privilege of place among all of the galaxies in the universe, earth is privileged because God made man in His own image and made earth for us. “*God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth*” (Gen 1:27-28). Even apart from a faith perspective, man is of great significance. Professor Brian Cox, a British physicist, noted that it is man that gives meaning to the universe, not the universe that gives meaning to man: ‘We are the cosmos made conscious and life is the means by which the universe understands itself.’ Without man, the universe has no meaning. If there is other intelligent life in the universe, then we can suppose that the universe has meaning apart from us. If not, all of creation exists in purposeless vanity in the absence of mankind. That we might well be the only intelligent life in the whole universe spurred many scientists in the 1970s and 1980s to advocate for environmental responsibility. They argued that the earth, our habitat, must be preserved for the sake of mankind, for the sake of preserving intelligent life.

Indeed, early environmentalism focused on preserving the earth for the sake of generations yet unborn. God gave us dominion over the earth not so that the earth’s resources might be squandered or used selfishly. We are therefore stewards of the planet for God’s sake, our own sake, for the sake of future generations, and for the sake of the universe.

- Fr Booth