

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

October 1st/October 2nd 2022: 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
17th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)



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 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 Kimson Woods, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from September October 2nd to October 8th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eugene Mason from October 3rd until October 15th.

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

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on October 7th 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.

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 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.

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 Rodgriguez, 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 \$5762 and \$450 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, Oct 1:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn
	4:00 p.m.	† Jerry Bryant (by Helen Brandley)
Sun, Oct 2:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for John Paul Hahn
Mon, Oct 3:	8:30 a.m.	† Helen Mooney (by Jacob & Stacie Hiserman)
Tues, Oct 4:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Marc Ayers, Jr. (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Oct 5:	7:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Nathan Wright, Jr. (by the Hahn Family)
	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Jordan Burke (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Oct 6:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Dan Burke (by the Hahn Family)
Fri, Oct 7:	8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Fernandes Family (by the Jones Family)
	6:30 p.m.	† Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sat, Oct 8:	4:00 p.m.	† Eugene Mason (by Mary & Betty Mason)
Sun, Oct 9:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Laura Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Michelle Smith (by Monica Duvall)

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.	28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	2Kings 5:14-17, 2Tim 2:8-13, Lk 17:11-19
7:30 a.m.	18 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8
9:00 a.m.	28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	2Kings 5:14-17, 2Tim 2:8-13, Lk 17:11-19
10:45 a.m.	18 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 1:4-8, Mt 9:1-8

Brutal, Indifferent, Stupid, Cynical, and Godless

Man's inhumanity to man dates back to Cain and Abel. All sorts of atrocities have been foisted on the conquered, the weak, the vulnerable, and those who are in the way. The Mongol warlords Genghis Kahn, Kubla Kahn, and Tamerlane are examples. Genghis Kahn is responsible for the slaughter of over 10% of the world's population during his reign. He was also a prolific rapist to the point that today about a quarter of the people in Mongolia are his descendants and about one in ten people in central and east Asia are his offspring. Kubla Kahn murdered about as many people as his grandfather Genghis. Tamerlane was not as effective a murderer as the Kahns, having killed only 4% of the world's population, but he did exterminate almost every Christian between eastern Syria and western India. He once promised to spare the people of a city if they surrendered. While Tamerlane did not put them to the sword because they did surrender, he chose instead to bury them alive.

Western culture is far too civilized for such atrocities. We might tell ourselves that, but it is hardly true. While the details are somewhat disputed, the Irish potato famine of 1845-1849 is an example. A blight ruined a good portion of the Irish potato crop such that about one million people died and another million or more fled the country, resulting in about a 25% decline in the Irish population. Another million would emigrate soon after. Being under the thumb of the British was certainly a factor: one Oxford don lamented that the potato famine 'would not kill more than one million [Irish] people, and that would scarcely be enough to do any good.' A survivor of the famine, John Mitchell, would observe 'I have called it an artificial famine: that is to say, it was a famine which desolated a rich and fertile island that produced every year abundance and superabundance to sustain all her people and many more. The, English, indeed, call the famine a "dispensation of Providence," and ascribe it entirely to the blight on potatoes. But potatoes failed in like manner all over Europe; yet there was no famine save in Ireland. The British account of the matter, then, is first, a fraud, and second, a blasphemy. The Almighty, indeed, sent the potato blight, but the English created the famine.' The British scarcely helped the starving people of Ireland, a fact that prompted an official apology by Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1997.

Modern societies are too advanced for genocidal atrocities. Except when they aren't. After the Russian Revolution, as many as 10 million people died of famine in Ukraine and surrounding regions. The Soviets rounded up the most prosperous and productive farmers, the so called kulaks, and sent them off to die in Siberia. Their crime was being prosperous and productive, and therefore they were bourgeois enemies of the state. Purging the productive farmers, those who were obviously adept at farming, resulted in a 60% shortfall in Ukrainian food production. The famine was so severe that those who survived were likely to have resorted to cannibalism. Not to be outdone, Communist China caused an even greater famine than the Russians. In the 'Great Leap Forward' of 1958-1962 the Chinese suffered over 50 million famine deaths despite having excellent weather and good crop yields. Having decreed a 100% increase in national steel production in one year, the government took farmers from their fields to make steel, leaving their crops to rot unharvested.

These examples show the brutality, the indifference, the stupidity, and the misguidedness of man. But such inhumanity does not require warlords, religious bigotry, or the folly of communism. All that is required is godlessness. America using 40% of its corn crop for gasohol with a pending widespread famine shows how misguided and indifferent we can be. With a real energy crisis unfolding in Europe, the Canadians refusing to send natural gas when the Germans pleaded for their help is also misguided, indifferent, and truly cynical. The Canadian prime minister told the Germans that now was the time for them to 'go green' and promised to send them nonexistent green energy perhaps by 2025, 2030 at the latest. The Canadians don't have this new green energy, but even if they did, the Germans would not be able to use it. Pure genius. Those turning blue from the cold this winter will no doubt be comforted by the promise of future imaginary green energy assistance. - Fr Booth